

IAP5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 AUG 2006

AMINO ACIDS

The present invention relates to amino acids, i.e. compounds bearing amino and carboxy groups, their synthesis and use in synthesizing molecules designed to interact with DNA.

Background to the invention

The prototype minor groove binding agent distamycin A is a natural product with an amide linked tris(N-methylpyrrole) structure. The molecule binds non-covalently at A/T rich sequences and forms specific hydrogen bonds with the minor groove floor. The A/T recognising capacity of the molecule relates partly to favourable Van der Waals interactions with the groove walls in the relatively narrow A/T regions and also to specific steric clashes between the inner facing pyrrole H-3 and the larger G residues in the minor groove. The observation that distamycin and the related natural product netropsin may bind as highly cooperative 2:1 complexes in the minor groove was significant and prompted the development of a series of linked dimer molecules termed 'hairpin polyamides' (see for example, Woods, C.R., et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 124, 10676-10682 (2002)) In such molecules replacement of the pyrrole (Py) with the sterically less demanding imidazole (Im) allows passive G recognition. A further development was the inclusion of a hydroxypyrrole (Hp) unit which discriminated between T and A residues. Thus the full sequence recognising code is:

Heterocycle		Nucleotide	
Py	Py	A or T	A or T
Py	Hp	A	T
Hp	Py	T	A
Im	Py	G	C
Py	Im	C	G

For molecules which bind in a 1:1 motif with DNA the recognition properties are more degenerate, thus:

Heterocycle	Nucleotide
Py	A or T
Im	A or T or G or C
Hp	T?

More recently new heterocycles have been studied such as 2-(pyrrol-2-yl)benzimidazoles, 2-(pyrrol-2-yl)imidazopyridines and 5-hydroxy-(pyrrol-2-yl)benzimidazoles which have similar recognition properties to the established building blocks in the context of hairpin polyamides (Biehn, C.A., et al., *Chem. Eur. J.*, 9, 2110-2122 (2003)).

10 Disclosure of the invention

The present inventors have developed a series of compounds bearing amino and carboxy groups, which can be used in synthesising molecules designed to interact with DNA.

15 In a first aspect, the invention provides a compound of formula I:



wherein:

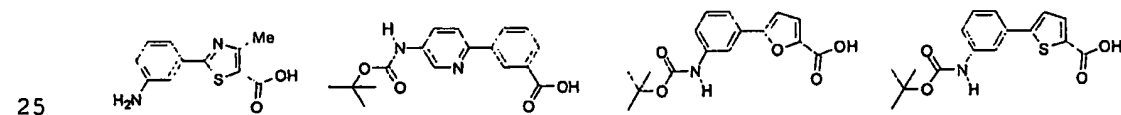
20 Z is H or an amino protecting group;

Z' is OH, a protected or activated hydroxyl group or Cl;

A is an optionally substituted C₅₋₆ arylene group;

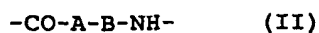
B is an optionally substituted C₅₋₆ arylene group;

except for the following compounds:



In a second aspect, the invention provides a method of synthesising a compound of formula I.

In a third aspect, the invention provides a polyamido moiety comprising at least one unit of formula II:



5

wherein:

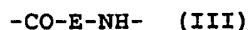
A and B are as defined in the first aspect of the invention.

The unit of formula II may be bound to one or more other units selected from:

10

(i) units of formula II; and

(ii) amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl units of formula III:



15

wherein E is either optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ heteroarylene (G) or C₈₋₁₀ heteroarylene-C₅₋₂₀ arylene (K).

In a fourth aspect, the present invention provides the use of a compound of formula I as defined in the first aspect of the invention in the synthesis of a compound comprising a polyamido moiety as defined in the third aspect of the invention.

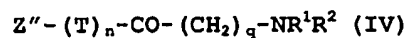
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In a fifth aspect, the present invention provides a compound comprising a polyamido moiety as defined in the third aspect of the invention.

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In some embodiments of the fifth aspect of the invention, the compounds are of formula IV:

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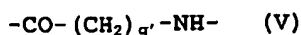


wherein:

Z'' is OH or a protected hydroxy group;

each T is independently selected from units of formulae II, III or V:

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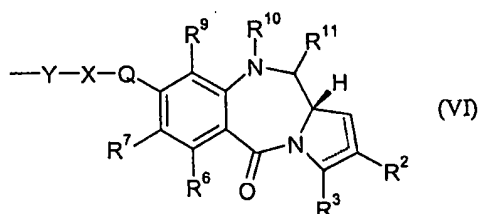
wherein q' is from 1 to 3;

5 n is from 1 to 10;

q is from 1 to 3; and

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from C_{1-4} alkyl.

10 In other embodiments of the fifth aspect of the invention, the compounds include a pyrrolobenzodiazepine moiety of formula VI:



wherein:

15 the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;
 R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;
 R^6 , R^7 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo;
 20 where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or
 R^6 and R^7 together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;
 R^{10} is a nitrogen protecting group and R^{11} is either O-R¹⁵, wherein R^{15} is a hydroxyl protecting group, or R^{11} is OH, or R^{10} and R^{11}
 25 together form a double bond between N10 and C11;
 Q is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;
 X is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;
 Y is either NH or C(=O).

30 Further aspects of the present invention relate to compounds of the fifth aspect of the invention and pharmaceutical salts

thereof, their use in methods of therapy (particularly in treating gene-based diseases), pharmaceutical compositions comprising these, and their use in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a gene-based disease.

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Definitions

C₅₋₆ arylene groups

The term C₅₋₆ arylene, as used herein, pertains to a divalent moiety obtained by removing two hydrogen atoms from aromatic ring atoms of an aromatic compound and 5 or 6 ring atoms.

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The ring atoms may be all carbon atoms, as in "carboaryl groups". Examples of carboaryl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from benzene (i.e. phenylene) (C₆).

15

Alternatively, the ring atoms may include one or more heteroatoms, as in "C₅₋₆ heteroarylene groups". Examples of C₅₋₆ heteroarylene groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

N₁: pyrrole (azole) (C₅), pyridine (azine) (C₆);

20

O₁: furan (oxole) (C₅);

S₁: thiophene (thiole) (C₅);

N₁O₁: oxazole (C₅), isoxazole (C₅), isoxazine (C₆);

N₂O₁: oxadiazole (furazan) (C₅);

N₃O₁: oxatriazole (C₅);

25

N₁S₁: thiazole (C₅), isothiazole (C₅);

N₂: imidazole (1,3-diazole) (C₅), pyrazole (1,2-diazole) (C₅), pyridazine (1,2-diazine) (C₆), pyrimidine (1,3-diazine) (C₆) (e.g., cytosine, thymine, uracil), pyrazine (1,4-diazine) (C₆);

N₃: triazole (C₅), triazine (C₆); and,

30

N₄: tetrazole (C₅).

C₅₋₂₀ heteroarylene groups (G)

G is an optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ heteroarylene group, preferably a C₅₋₁₆ heteroarylene group, more preferably a C₅₋₁₀ heteroarylene group and even more preferably a C₅₋₆ heteroarylene group.

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Furthermore in a preferred embodiment, the G group is a five membered heteroarylene group.

5 The heteroarylene group may contain one or more heteroatoms and preferably contains one heteroatom. The heteroatoms in the heteroarylene group are independently chosen from N, O and S and are preferably N.

10 The heteroarylene G group is optionally substituted with one or more R groups. In a preferred embodiment the G group is substituted at one or more of the heteroatom positions with at least one R group, most preferably the R group is a methyl or ethyl group.

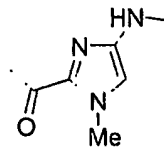
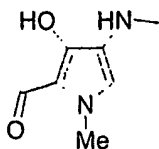
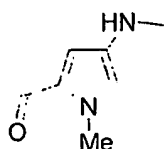
15 Where the G group is a six membered heteroarylene group, the -NH- and -CO- groups are preferably attached at the 2,6, 2,5, 3,6 or 3,5 positions.

20 Where the G group is a five membered heteroarylene group, the -NH- and -CO- groups are preferably attached at the 2,5, 2,4 or 3,5 positions.

Where the G group comprises two fused rings, the -NH- and -CO- groups are preferably attached to different rings.

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Known amino-C₅ heteroarylene-carbonyl units include the following:

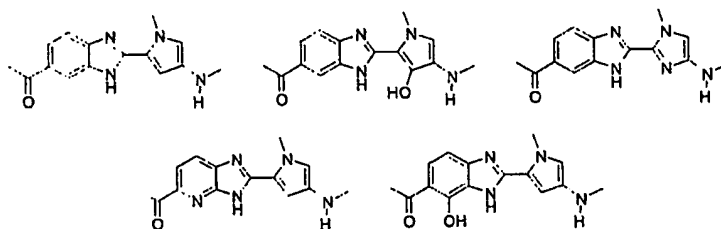


C₈₋₁₀ heteroarylene-C₅₋₂₀ arylene groups (K)

30 The C₈₋₁₀ heteroarylene groups are a subset of the C₅₋₂₀ heteroarylene groups defined above, and comprise two fused rings.

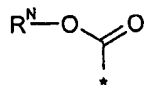
The term arylene, as used herein, pertains to a divalent moiety obtained by removing two hydrogen atoms from aromatic ring atoms of an aromatic compound having from 5 to 20 ring atoms. Arylene compounds as described herein correspond to aryl groups as defined below with one fewer hydrogen atoms on the ring atoms. Preferably, the C₅₋₂₀ arylene group is a C₅₋₇ arylene group and more preferably a C₅₋₆ heteroarylene group.

Units of formula III which are a carbonyl-C₈₋₁₀ heteroarylene-C₅₋₆ heteroarylene-amino unit have been described in Briehen, C.A., et al., *Chem. Eur. J.*, 9, 2110-2122 (2003) and Renneberg, D., et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 125, 5707-5716 (2003) and include:



Amino protecting groups (Z)

Amino protecting groups are well known in the art, and are listed on pages 494 to 572 of Greene, T.W. and Wuts, G.M., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference. Preferred nitrogen protecting groups are carbamate protecting groups that have the general formula:



Particularly preferred protecting groups include Alloc, Troc, Teoc, Boc, and Fmoc, with Boc being particularly preferred.

Protected hydroxyl groups (Z')

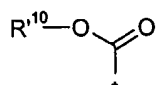
Protected hydroxyl groups are of the formula -O-Prot, where Prot is an oxygen protecting group as discussed below.

Activated hydroxyl groups (Z')

Activated hydroxyl groups are of the formula -O-Act, where Act is an activating moiety for peptide bond formation, introduced by a peptide coupling reagent. Such reagents include BOP, BOP-Cl, DCC, DIC, EDPP, HATU, HOBT, PyBroP and TBTU.

Nitrogen protecting groups (R¹⁰)

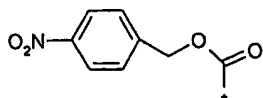
Nitrogen protecting groups are well known in the art. Preferred nitrogen protecting groups are carbamate protecting groups that have the general formula:



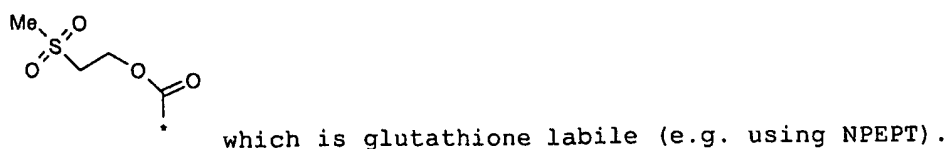
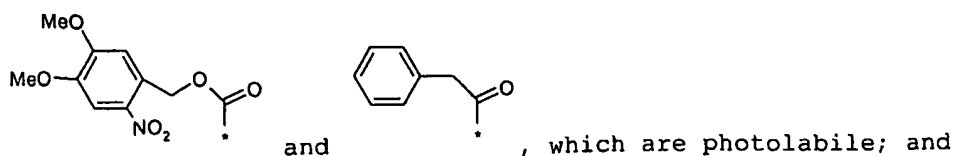
A large number of possible carbamate nitrogen protecting groups are listed on pages 503 to 549 of Greene, T.W. and Wuts, G.M., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Particularly preferred protecting groups include Alloc, Troc, Teoc, BOC, Doc, Hoc, TcBOC, Fmoc, 1-Adoc and 2-Adoc.

Also suitable for use in the present invention are nitrogen protecting groups which can be removed *in vivo* (e.g. enzymatically, using light) as described in WO 00/12507, which is incorporated herein by reference. Examples of these protecting groups include:



, which is nitroreductase labile (e.g. using ADEPT/GDEPT);



5 *Oxygen protecting groups*

Oxygen protecting groups are well known in the art. A large number of suitable groups are described on pages 23 to 200 of Greene, T.W. and Wuts, G.M., *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1999, which is
 10 incorporated herein by reference.

Classes of particular interest include silyl ethers, methyl ethers, alkyl ethers, benzyl ethers, esters, benzoates, carbonates, and sulfonates.

15

Substituents

The phrase "optionally substituted" as used herein, pertains to a parent group which may be unsubstituted or which may be substituted.

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Unless otherwise specified, the term "substituted" as used herein, pertains to a parent group which bears one or more substituents. The term "substituent" is used herein in the conventional sense and refers to a chemical moiety which is covalently attached to,
 25 or if appropriate, fused to, a parent group. A wide variety of substituents are well known, and methods for their formation and introduction into a variety of parent groups are also well known.

Examples of substituents are described in more detail below.

30

C₁₋₇ alkyl: The term "C₁₋₇ alkyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a carbon atom of a hydrocarbon compound having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be aliphatic or alicyclic, and which may be saturated or unsaturated (e.g. partially unsaturated, fully unsaturated). Thus, the term "alkyl" includes the sub-classes alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, etc., discussed below.

Examples of saturated alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl (C₁), ethyl (C₂), propyl (C₃), butyl (C₄), pentyl (C₅), hexyl (C₆) and heptyl (C₇).

Examples of saturated linear alkyl groups include, but are not limited to, methyl (C₁), ethyl (C₂), n-propyl (C₃), n-butyl (C₄), n-pentyl (amyl) (C₅), n-hexyl (C₆) and n-heptyl (C₇).

Examples of saturated branched alkyl groups include iso-propyl (C₃), iso-butyl (C₄), sec-butyl (C₄), tert-butyl (C₄), iso-pentyl (C₅), and neo-pentyl (C₅).

C₂₋₇ Alkenyl: The term "C₂₋₇ alkenyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group having one or more carbon-carbon double bonds.

Examples of unsaturated alkenyl groups include, but are not limited to, ethenyl (vinyl, -CH=CH₂), 1-propenyl (-CH=CH-CH₃), 2-propenyl (allyl, -CH-CH=CH₂), isopropenyl (1-methylvinyl, -C(CH₃)=CH₂), butenyl (C₄), pentenyl (C₅), and hexenyl (C₆).

C₂₋₇ alkynyl: The term "C₂₋₇ alkynyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group having one or more carbon-carbon triple bonds.

Examples of unsaturated alkynyl groups include, but are not limited to, ethynyl (ethinyl, -C≡CH) and 2-propynyl (propargyl, -CH₂-C≡CH).

C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl: The term "C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl" as used herein, pertains to an alkyl group which is also a cyclyl group; that is, a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from an alicyclic ring atom of a cyclic hydrocarbon (carbocyclic) compound, which moiety has from 3 to 7 carbon atoms, including from 3 to 7 ring atoms.

Examples of cycloalkyl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

- 10 saturated monocyclic hydrocarbon compounds:
cyclopropane (C₃), cyclobutane (C₄), cyclopentane (C₅), cyclohexane (C₆), cycloheptane (C₇), methylcyclopropane (C₄), dimethylcyclopropane (C₅), methylcyclobutane (C₅), dimethylcyclobutane (C₆), methylcyclopentane (C₆),
15 dimethylcyclopentane (C₇) and methylcyclohexane (C₇);
 unsaturated monocyclic hydrocarbon compounds:
cyclopropene (C₃), cyclobutene (C₄), cyclopentene (C₅), cyclohexene (C₆), methylcyclopropene (C₄), dimethylcyclopropene (C₅), methylcyclobutene (C₅), dimethylcyclobutene (C₆),
20 methylcyclopentene (C₆), dimethylcyclopentene (C₇) and methylcyclohexene (C₇); and
 saturated polycyclic hydrocarbon compounds:
norcarane (C₇), norpinane (C₇), norbornane (C₇).

- 25 C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl: The term "C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl" as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from a ring atom of a heterocyclic compound, which moiety has from 3 to 20 ring atoms, of which from 1 to 10 are ring heteroatoms. Preferably, each ring has from 3 to 7 ring atoms, of
30 which from 1 to 4 are ring heteroatoms.

- In this context, the prefixes (e.g. C₃₋₂₀, C₃₋₇, C₅₋₆, etc.) denote the number of ring atoms, or range of number of ring atoms, whether carbon atoms or heteroatoms. For example, the term
35 "C₅₋₆heterocyclyl", as used herein, pertains to a heterocyclyl group having 5 or 6 ring atoms.

Examples of monocyclic heterocyclyl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

- 5 N_1 : aziridine (C_3), azetidine (C_4), pyrrolidine (tetrahydropyrrole) (C_5), pyrroline (e.g., 3-pyrroline, 2,5-dihydropyrrole) (C_5), 2H-pyrrole or 3H-pyrrole (isopyrrole, isoazole) (C_5), piperidine (C_6), dihydropyridine (C_6), tetrahydropyridine (C_6), azepine (C_7);
- O_1 : oxirane (C_3), oxetane (C_4), oxolane (tetrahydrofuran) (C_5), oxole (dihydrofuran) (C_5), oxane (tetrahydropyran) (C_6),
- 10 dihydropyran (C_6), pyran (C_6), oxepin (C_7);
- S_1 : thiirane (C_3), thietane (C_4), thiolane (tetrahydrothiophene) (C_5), thiane (tetrahydrothiopyran) (C_6), thiepane (C_7);
- O_2 : dioxolane (C_5), dioxane (C_6), and dioxepane (C_7);
- O_3 : trioxane (C_6);
- 15 N_2 : imidazolidine (C_5), pyrazolidine (diazolidine) (C_5), imidazoline (C_5), pyrazoline (dihydropyrazole) (C_5), piperazine (C_6);
- N_1O_1 : tetrahydrooxazole (C_5), dihydrooxazole (C_5), tetrahydroisoxazole (C_5), dihydroisoxazole (C_5), morpholine (C_6),
- 20 tetrahydrooxazine (C_6), dihydrooxazine (C_6), oxazine (C_6);
- N_1S_1 : thiazoline (C_5), thiazolidine (C_5), thiomorpholine (C_6);
- N_2O_1 : oxadiazine (C_6);
- O_1S_1 : oxathiole (C_5) and oxathiane (thioxane) (C_6); and,
- $N_1O_1S_1$: oxathiazine (C_6).

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Examples of substituted monocyclic heterocyclyl groups include those derived from saccharides, in cyclic form, for example, furanoses (C_5), such as arabinofuranose, lyxofuranose, ribofuranose, and xylofuranse, and pyranoses (C_6), such as

30 allopentanose, altropentanose, glucopyranose, mannopyranose, gulopyranose, idopyranose, galactopyranose, and talopyranose.

C_{5-20} aryl: The term " C_{5-20} aryl", as used herein, pertains to a monovalent moiety obtained by removing a hydrogen atom from an

35 aromatic ring atom of an aromatic compound, which moiety has from

3 to 20 ring atoms. Preferably, each ring has from 5 to 7 ring atoms.

5 In this context, the prefixes (e.g. C₃₋₂₀, C₅₋₇, C₅₋₆, etc.) denote the number of ring atoms, or range of number of ring atoms, whether carbon atoms or heteroatoms. For example, the term "C₅₋₆ aryl" as used herein, pertains to an aryl group having 5 or 6 ring atoms.

10 The ring atoms may be all carbon atoms, as in "carboaryl groups". Examples of carboaryl groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from benzene (i.e. phenyl) (C₆), naphthalene (C₁₀), azulene (C₁₀), anthracene (C₁₄), phenanthrene (C₁₄), naphthacene (C₁₈), and pyrene (C₁₆).

15 Examples of aryl groups which comprise fused rings, at least one of which is an aromatic ring, include, but are not limited to, groups derived from indane (e.g. 2,3-dihydro-1H-indene) (C₉), indene (C₉), isoindene (C₉), tetraline
20 (1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (C₁₀), acenaphthene (C₁₂), fluorene (C₁₃), phenalene (C₁₃), acephenanthrene (C₁₅), and aceanthrene (C₁₆).

Alternatively, the ring atoms may include one or more heteroatoms, as in "heteroaryl groups". Examples of monocyclic heteroaryl
25 groups include, but are not limited to, those derived from:

N₁: pyrrole (azole) (C₅), pyridine (azine) (C₆);
O₁: furan (oxole) (C₅);
S₁: thiophene (thiole) (C₅);
N₁O₁: oxazole (C₅), isoxazole (C₅), isoxazine (C₆);
30 N₂O₁: oxadiazole (furazan) (C₅);
N₃O₁: oxatriazole (C₅);
N₁S₁: thiazole (C₅), isothiazole (C₅);
N₂: imidazole (1,3-diazole) (C₅), pyrazole (1,2-diazole) (C₅),
pyridazine (1,2-diazine) (C₆), pyrimidine (1,3-diazine) (C₆) (e.g.,
35 cytosine, thymine, uracil), pyrazine (1,4-diazine) (C₆);
N₃: triazole (C₅), triazine (C₆); and,

N₄: tetrazole (C₅).

Examples of heteroaryl which comprise fused rings, include, but are not limited to:

- 5 C₉ (with 2 fused rings) derived from benzofuran (O₁),
isobenzofuran (O₁), indole (N₁), isoindole (N₁), indolizine (N₁),
indoline (N₁), isoindoline (N₁), purine (N₄) (e.g., adenine,
guanine), benzimidazole (N₂), indazole (N₂), benzoxazole (N₁O₁),
benzisoxazole (N₁O₁), benzodioxole (O₂), benzofurazan (N₂O₁),
10 benzotriazole (N₃), benzothiofuran (S₁), benzothiazole (N₁S₁),
benzothiadiazole (N₂S);
- C₁₀ (with 2 fused rings) derived from chromene (O₁),
isochromene (O₁), chroman (O₁), isochroman (O₁), benzodioxan (O₂),
quinoline (N₁), isoquinoline (N₁), quinolizine (N₁), benzoxazine
15 (N₁O₁), benzodiazine (N₂), pyridopyridine (N₂), quinoxaline (N₂),
quinazoline (N₂), cinnoline (N₂), phthalazine (N₂), naphthyridine
(N₂), pteridine (N₄);
- C₁₁ (with 2 fused rings) derived from benzodiazepine (N₂);
- C₁₃ (with 3 fused rings) derived from carbazole (N₁),
20 dibenzofuran (O₁), dibenzothiophene (S₁), carboline (N₂),
perimidine (N₂), pyridoindole (N₂); and,
- C₁₄ (with 3 fused rings) derived from acridine (N₁), xanthene
(O₁), thioxanthene (S₁), oxanthrene (O₂), phenoxathiin (O₁S₁),
phenazine (N₂), phenoxazine (N₁O₁), phenothiazine (N₁S₁),
25 thianthrene (S₂), phenanthridine (N₁), phenanthroline (N₂),
phenazine (N₂).

The above groups, whether alone or part of another substituent,
may themselves optionally be substituted with one or more groups
30 selected from themselves and the additional substituents listed
below.

Halo: -F, -Cl, -Br, and -I.

35 Hydroxy: -OH.

Ether: -OR, wherein R is an ether substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to as a C₁₋₇ alkoxy group, discussed below), a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group (also referred to as a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyloxy group), or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group (also referred to as a C₅₋₂₀ aryloxy group), preferably a C₁₋₇alkyl group.

Alkoxy: -OR, wherein R is an alkyl group, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of C₁₋₇ alkoxy groups include, but are not limited to, -OMe (methoxy), -OEt (ethoxy), -O(nPr) (n-propoxy), -O(iPr) (isopropoxy), -O(nBu) (n-butoxy), -O(sBu) (sec-butoxy), -O(iBu) (isobutoxy), and -O(tBu) (tert-butoxy).

Acetal: -CH(OR¹)(OR²), wherein R¹ and R² are independently acetal substituents, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, or, in the case of a "cyclic" acetal group, R¹ and R², taken together with the two oxygen atoms to which they are attached, and the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring having from 4 to 8 ring atoms. Examples of acetal groups include, but are not limited to, -CH(OMe)₂, -CH(OEt)₂, and -CH(OMe)(OEt).

Hemiacetal: -CH(OH)(OR¹), wherein R¹ is a hemiacetal substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of hemiacetal groups include, but are not limited to, -CH(OH)(OMe) and -CH(OH)(OEt).

Ketal: -CR(OR¹)(OR²), where R¹ and R² are as defined for acetals, and R is a ketal substituent other than hydrogen, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples ketal groups include, but are not limited to, -C(Me)(OMe)₂, -C(Me)(OEt)₂, -C(Me)(OMe)(OEt), -C(Et)(OMe)₂, -C(Et)(OEt)₂, and -C(Et)(OMe)(OEt).

Hemiketal: -CR(OH)(OR¹), where R¹ is as defined for hemiacetals, and R is a hemiketal substituent other than hydrogen, for example,

a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of hemiacetal groups include, but are not limited to, -C(Me)(OH)(OMe), -C(Et)(OH)(OMe), -C(Me)(OH)(OEt), and -C(Et)(OH)(OEt).

5

Oxo (keto, -one): =O.

Thione (thioketone): =S.

10

Imino (imine): =NR, wherein R is an imino substituent, for example, hydrogen, C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of ester groups include, but are not limited to, =NH, =NMe, =NEt, and =NPh.

15

Formyl (carbaldehyde, carboxaldehyde): -C(=O)H.

20

Acyl (keto): -C(=O)R, wherein R is an acyl substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to as C₁₋₇ alkylacyl or C₁₋₇ alkanoyl), a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group (also referred to as C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclylacyl), or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group (also referred to as C₅₋₂₀ arylacyl), preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of acyl groups include, but are not limited to, -C(=O)CH₃ (acetyl), -C(=O)CH₂CH₃ (propionyl), -C(=O)C(CH₃)₃ (t-butyryl), and -C(=O)Ph (benzoyl, phenone).

25

Carboxy (carboxylic acid): -C(=O)OH.

Thiocarboxy (thiocarboxylic acid): -C(=S)SH.

30

Thiolocarboxy (thiolocarboxylic acid): -C(=O)SH.

Thionocarboxy (thionocarboxylic acid): -C(=S)OH.

35

Imidic acid: -C(=NH)OH.

Hydroxamic acid: $-C(=NOH)OH$.

Ester (carboxylate, carboxylic acid ester, oxycarbonyl): $-C(=O)OR$, wherein R is an ester substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of ester groups include, but are not limited to, $-C(=O)OCH_3$, $-C(=O)OCH_2CH_3$, $-C(=O)OC(CH_3)_3$, and $-C(=O)OPh$.

10 Acyloxy (reverse ester): $-OC(=O)R$, wherein R is an acyloxy substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of acyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-OC(=O)CH_3$ (acetox), $-OC(=O)CH_2CH_3$, $-OC(=O)C(CH_3)_3$, $-OC(=O)Ph$, and
15 $-OC(=O)CH_2Ph$.

Oxycarboxyloxy: $-OC(=O)OR$, wherein R is an ester substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of ester
20 groups include, but are not limited to, $-OC(=O)OCH_3$, $-OC(=O)OCH_2CH_3$, $-OC(=O)OC(CH_3)_3$, and $-OC(=O)OPh$.

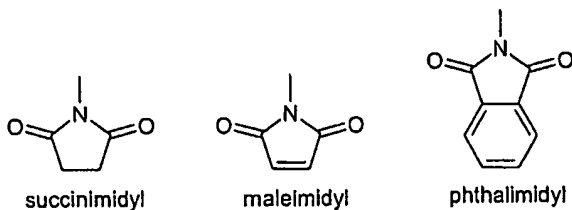
Amino: $-NR^1R^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group (also referred to as C_{1-7} alkylamino or di- C_{1-7} alkylamino), a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably H or a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or, in the case of a "cyclic" amino group, R^1 and R^2 , taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic ring having from 4 to 8 ring atoms. Amino
30 groups may be primary ($-NH_2$), secondary ($-NHR^1$), or tertiary ($-NHR^1R^2$), and in cationic form, may be quaternary ($-^+NR^1R^2R^3$). Examples of amino groups include, but are not limited to, $-NH_2$, $-NHCH_3$, $-NHC(CH_3)_2$, $-N(CH_3)_2$, $-N(CH_2CH_3)_2$, and $-NHPh$. Examples of cyclic amino groups include, but are not limited to, aziridino, azetidino, pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino, morpholino, and
35 thiomorpholino.

Amido (carbamoyl, carbamyl, aminocarbonyl, carboxamide):

$-C(=O)NR^1R^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of amido groups include, but are not limited to, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NHCH_3$, $-C(=O)N(CH_3)_2$, $-C(=O)NHCH_2CH_3$, and $-C(=O)N(CH_2CH_3)_2$, as well as amido groups in which R^1 and R^2 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocyclic structure as in, for example, piperidinocarbonyl, morpholinocarbonyl, thiomorpholinocarbonyl, and piperazinocarbonyl.

Thioamido (thiocarbamyl): $-C(=S)NR^1R^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of amido groups include, but are not limited to, $-C(=S)NH_2$, $-C(=S)NHCH_3$, $-C(=S)N(CH_3)_2$, and $-C(=S)NHCH_2CH_3$.

Acylamido (acylamino): $-NR^1C(=O)R^2$, wherein R^1 is an amide substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group, and R^2 is an acyl substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of acylamide groups include, but are not limited to, $-NHC(=O)CH_3$, $-NHC(=O)CH_2CH_3$, and $-NHC(=O)Ph$. R^1 and R^2 may together form a cyclic structure, as in, for example, succinimidyl, maleimidyl, and phthalimidyl:

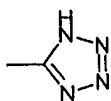


Aminocarbonyloxy: $-OC(=O)NR^1R^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of aminocarbonyloxy groups include, but are not limited to, $-OC(=O)NH_2$, $-OC(=O)NHMe$, $-OC(=O)NMe_2$, and $-OC(=O)NEt_2$.

Ureido: $-N(R^1)CONR^2R^3$ wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups, and R^1 is a ureido substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably hydrogen or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of ureido groups include, but are not limited to, $-NHCONH_2$, $-NHCONHMe$, $-NHCONHEt$, $-NHCONMe_2$, $-NHCONEt_2$, $-NMeCONH_2$, $-NMeCONHMe$, $-NMeCONHEt$, $-NMeCONMe_2$, and $-NMeCONEt_2$.

Guanidino: $-NH-C(=NH)NH_2$.

Tetrazolyl: a five membered aromatic ring having four nitrogen atoms and one carbon atom,



Imino: $=NR$, wherein R is an imino substituent, for example, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably H or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of imino groups include, but are not limited to, $=NH$, $=NMe$, and $=NEt$.

Amidine (amidino): $-C(=NR)NR_2$, wherein each R is an amidine substituent, for example, hydrogen, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably H or a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of amidine groups include, but are not limited to, $-C(=NH)NH_2$, $-C(=NH)NMe_2$, and $-C(=NMe)NMe_2$.

Nitro: $-NO_2$.

Nitroso: $-NO$.

Azido: $-N_3$.

Cyano (nitrile, carbonitrile): $-CN$.

Isocyano: -NC.

Cyanato: -OCN.

5 Isocyanato: -NCO.

Thiocyano (thiocyanato): -SCN.

Isothiocyano (isothiocyano): -NCS.

10

Sulfhydryl (thiol, mercapto): -SH.

Thioether (sulfide): -SR, wherein R is a thioether substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to as a C₁₋₇alkylthio group), a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of C₁₋₇ alkylthio groups include, but are not limited to, -SCH₃ and -SCH₂CH₃.

Disulfide: -SS-R, wherein R is a disulfide substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group (also referred to herein as C₁₋₇ alkyl disulfide). Examples of C₁₋₇ alkyl disulfide groups include, but are not limited to, -SSCH₃ and -SSCH₂CH₃.

25 Sulfine (sulfinyl, sulfoxide): -S(=O)R, wherein R is a sulfine substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of sulfine groups include, but are not limited to, -S(=O)CH₃ and -S(=O)CH₂CH₃.

30

Sulfone (sulfonyl): -S(=O)₂R, wherein R is a sulfone substituent, for example, a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, a C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl group, or a C₅₋₂₀ aryl group, preferably a C₁₋₇ alkyl group, including, for example, a fluorinated or perfluorinated C₁₋₇ alkyl group. Examples of sulfone groups include, but are not limited to, -S(=O)₂CH₃ (methanesulfonyl, mesyl), -S(=O)₂CF₃ (triflyl), -S(=O)₂CH₂CH₃

35

(esyl), $-S(=O)_2C_6F_5$ (nonafllyl), $-S(=O)_2CH_2CF_3$ (tresyl),
 $-S(=O)_2CH_2CH_2NH_2$ (tauryl), $-S(=O)_2Ph$ (phenylsulfonyl, besyl), 4-
methylphenylsulfonyl (tosyl), 4-chlorophenylsulfonyl (closyl),
4-bromophenylsulfonyl (brosyl), 4-nitrophenyl (nosyl),
5 2-naphthalenesulfonate (napsyl), and 5-dimethylamino-naphthalen-1-
ylsulfonate (dansyl).

Sulfinic acid (sulfino): $-S(=O)OH$, $-SO_2H$.

10 Sulfonic acid (sulfo): $-S(=O)_2OH$, $-SO_3H$.

Sulfinate (sulfinic acid ester): $-S(=O)OR$; wherein R is a
sulfinate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20}
heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl
15 group. Examples of sulfinate groups include, but are not limited
to, $-S(=O)OCH_3$ (methoxysulfinyl; methyl sulfinate) and
 $-S(=O)OCH_2CH_3$ (ethoxysulfinyl; ethyl sulfinate).

Sulfonate (sulfonic acid ester): $-S(=O)_2OR$, wherein R is a
20 sulfonate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20}
heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl
group. Examples of sulfonate groups include, but are not limited
to, $-S(=O)_2OCH_3$ (methoxysulfonyl; methyl sulfonate) and
 $-S(=O)_2OCH_2CH_3$ (ethoxysulfonyl; ethyl sulfonate).

25 Sulfinyloxy: $-OS(=O)R$, wherein R is a sulfinyloxy substituent, for
example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20}
aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfinyloxy
groups include, but are not limited to, $-OS(=O)CH_3$ and
30 $-OS(=O)CH_2CH_3$.

Sulfonyloxy: $-OS(=O)_2R$, wherein R is a sulfonyloxy substituent,
for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20}
aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfonyloxy
35 groups include, but are not limited to, $-OS(=O)_2CH_3$ (mesylate) and
 $-OS(=O)_2CH_2CH_3$ (esylate).

Sulfate: $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OR}$; wherein R is a sulfate substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfate groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OCH}_3$ and $-\text{SO}(=\text{O})_2\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.

Sulfamyl (sulfamoyl; sulfinic acid amide; sulfinamide): $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfamyl groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{NHPh}$.

Sulfonamido (sulfinamoyl; sulfonic acid amide; sulfonamide): $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NR}^1\text{R}^2$, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently amino substituents, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfonamido groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)$, $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, and $-\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{NHPh}$.

Sulfamino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$, wherein R^1 is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups. Examples of sulfamino groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NHS}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$ and $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{OH}$.

Sulfonamino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{R}$, wherein R^1 is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups, and R is a sulfonamino substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfonamino groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{NHS}(=\text{O})_2\text{CH}_3$ and $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{S}(=\text{O})_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$.

Sulfinamino: $-\text{NR}^1\text{S}(=\text{O})\text{R}$, wherein R^1 is an amino substituent, as defined for amino groups, and R is a sulfinamino substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group. Examples of sulfinamino

groups include, but are not limited to, -NHS(=O)CH_3 and $\text{-N(CH}_3\text{)S(=O)C}_6\text{H}_5$.

5 Phosphino (phosphine): -PR_2 , wherein R is a phosphino substituent, for example, -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphino groups include, but are not limited to, -PH_2 , $\text{-P(CH}_3\text{)}_2$, $\text{-P(CH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{)}_2$, -P(t-Bu)_2 , and -P(Ph)_2 .

10 Phospho: -P(=O)_2 .

Phosphinyl (phosphine oxide): -P(=O)R_2 , wherein R is a phosphinyl substituent, for example, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably a C_{1-7} alkyl group or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphinyl groups include, but are not limited to, $\text{-P(=O)(CH}_3\text{)}_2$, $\text{-P(=O)(CH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{)}_2$, -P(=O)(t-Bu)_2 , and -P(=O)(Ph)_2 .

20 Phosphonic acid (phosphono): -P(=O)(OH)_2 .

Phosphonate (phosphono ester): -P(=O)(OR)_2 , where R is a phosphonate substituent, for example, -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphonate groups include, but are not limited to, $\text{-P(=O)(OCH}_3\text{)}_2$, $\text{-P(=O)(OCH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{)}_2$, -P(=O)(O-t-Bu)_2 , and -P(=O)(OPh)_2 .

Phosphoric acid (phosphonooxy): -OP(=O)(OH)_2 .

30 Phosphate (phosphonooxy ester): -OP(=O)(OR)_2 , where R is a phosphate substituent, for example, -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H , a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphate groups include, but are not limited to, $\text{-OP(=O)(OCH}_3\text{)}_2$, $\text{-OP(=O)(OCH}_2\text{CH}_3\text{)}_2$, -OP(=O)(O-t-Bu)_2 , and -OP(=O)(OPh)_2 .

35

Phosphorous acid: $-\text{OP}(\text{OH})_2$.

Phosphite: $-\text{OP}(\text{OR})_2$, where R is a phosphite substituent, for example, -H, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphite groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OP}(\text{OCH}_3)_2$, $-\text{OP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{OP}(\text{O}-t\text{-Bu})_2$, and $-\text{OP}(\text{OPh})_2$.

Phosphoramidite: $-\text{OP}(\text{OR}^1)-\text{NR}^2_2$, where R^1 and R^2 are phosphoramidite substituents, for example, -H, a (optionally substituted) C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphoramidite groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{OP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}(i\text{-Pr})_2$, and $-\text{OP}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN})-\text{N}(i\text{-Pr})_2$.

Phosphoramidate: $-\text{OP}(=\text{O})(\text{OR}^1)-\text{NR}^2_2$, where R^1 and R^2 are phosphoramidate substituents, for example, -H, a (optionally substituted) C_{1-7} alkyl group, a C_{3-20} heterocyclyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group, preferably -H, a C_{1-7} alkyl group, or a C_{5-20} aryl group. Examples of phosphoramidate groups include, but are not limited to, $-\text{OP}(=\text{O})(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$, $-\text{OP}(=\text{O})(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)-\text{N}(i\text{-Pr})_2$, and $-\text{OP}(=\text{O})(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CN})-\text{N}(i\text{-Pr})_2$.

Gene-based diseases

Gene-based diseases include, and are preferably, proliferative diseases, and also include Alzheimer's disease and bacterial, parasitic and viral infections. Any condition which may be treated by the regulation of gene expression may be treated using compounds of the fifth aspect of the invention.

Proliferative Diseases

One of ordinary skill in the art is readily able to determine whether or not a candidate compound treats a proliferative condition for any particular cell type. For example, assays which

may conveniently be used to assess the activity offered by a particular compound are described in the examples below.

5 The term "proliferative disease" pertains to an unwanted or uncontrolled cellular proliferation of excessive or abnormal cells which is undesired, such as, neoplastic or hyperplastic growth, whether *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

10 Examples of proliferative conditions include, but are not limited to, benign, pre-malignant, and malignant cellular proliferation, including but not limited to, neoplasms and tumours (e.g. histocytoma, glioma, astrocyoma, osteoma), cancers (e.g. lung cancer, small cell lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, bowel cancer, colon cancer, breast carcinoma, ovarian carcinoma, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, liver cancer, kidney cancer, bladder cancer, pancreas cancer, brain cancer, sarcoma, osteosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, melanoma), leukemias, psoriasis, bone diseases, fibroproliferative disorders (e.g. of connective tissues), and atherosclerosis.

20 Any type of cell may be treated, including but not limited to, lung, gastrointestinal (including, e.g. bowel, colon), breast (mammary), ovarian, prostate, liver (hepatic), kidney (renal), bladder, pancreas, brain, and skin.

25

Methods of Treatment

As described above, the present invention provide the use of a compound of the fifth aspect in a method of therapy. If the compounds of the fifth aspect include a PBD moiety, then this preferably comprises a N10-C11 imine bond, or has a N10 which is protected by a nitrogen protecting group (R^{10}) which can be removed in vivo and the C11 substituent (R^{11}) as OH. Also provided is a method of treatment, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of of the fifth aspect, preferably in the form of a pharmaceutical composition, which is the third aspect of the present invention.

30

35

The term "therapeutically effective amount" is an amount sufficient to show benefit to a patient. Such benefit may be at least amelioration of at least one symptom. The actual amount administered, and rate and time-course of administration, will
5 depend on the nature and severity of what is being treated. Prescription of treatment, e.g. decisions on dosage, is within the responsibility of general practitioners and other medical doctors.

A compound may be administered alone or in combination with other
10 treatments, either simultaneously or sequentially dependent upon the condition to be treated. Examples of treatments and therapies include, but are not limited to, chemotherapy (the administration of active agents, including, e.g. drugs; surgery; and radiation therapy. If the compound of formula of the fifth aspect comprises
15 a PBD moiety which bears a carbamate-based nitrogen protecting group which may be removed *in vivo*, then the methods of treatment described in WO 00/12507 (ADEPT, GDEPT and PDT) may be used.

Pharmaceutical compositions according to the present invention,
20 and for use in accordance with the present invention, may comprise, in addition to the active ingredient, i.e. a compound of formula of the fifth aspect, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier, buffer, stabiliser or other materials well known to those skilled in the art. Such materials should be non-
25 toxic and should not interfere with the efficacy of the active ingredient. The precise nature of the carrier or other material will depend on the route of administration, which may be oral, or by injection, e.g. cutaneous, subcutaneous, or intravenous.

30 Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration may be in tablet, capsule, powder or liquid form. A tablet may comprise a solid carrier or an adjuvant. Liquid pharmaceutical compositions generally comprise a liquid carrier such as water, petroleum, animal or vegetable oils, mineral oil or synthetic oil.
35 Physiological saline solution, dextrose or other saccharide solution or glycols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or

polyethylene glycol may be included. A capsule may comprise a solid carrier such as a gelatin.

For intravenous, cutaneous or subcutaneous injection, or injection
5 at the site of affliction, the active ingredient will be in the form of a parenterally acceptable aqueous solution which is pyrogen-free and has suitable pH, isotonicity and stability. Those of relevant skill in the art are well able to prepare suitable solutions using, for example, isotonic vehicles such as
10 Sodium Chloride Injection, Ringer's Injection, Lactated Ringer's Injection. Preservatives, stabilisers, buffers, antioxidants and/or other additives may be included, as required.

Includes Other Forms

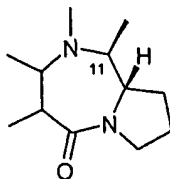
15 Unless otherwise specified, included in the above are the well known ionic, salt, solvate, and protected forms of these substituents. For example, a reference to carboxylic acid ($-\text{COOH}$) also includes the anionic (carboxylate) form ($-\text{COO}^-$), a salt or solvate thereof, as well as conventional protected forms.
20 Similarly, a reference to an amino group includes the protonated form ($-\text{N}^+\text{HR}^1\text{R}^2$), a salt or solvate of the amino group, for example, a hydrochloride salt, as well as conventional protected forms of an amino group. Similarly, a reference to a hydroxyl group also includes the anionic form ($-\text{O}^-$), a salt or solvate thereof, as
25 well as conventional protected forms.

Isomers, Salts and Solvates

Certain compounds may exist in one or more particular geometric, optical, enantiomeric, diastereomeric, epimeric, atropic,
30 stereoisomeric, tautomeric, conformational, or anomeric forms, including but not limited to, cis- and trans-forms; E- and Z-forms; c-, t-, and r- forms; endo- and exo-forms; R-, S-, and meso-forms; D- and L-forms; d- and l-forms; (+) and (-) forms; keto-, enol-, and enolate-forms; syn- and anti-forms; synclinal-
35 and anticlinal-forms; α - and β -forms; axial and equatorial forms; boat-, chair-, twist-, envelope-, and halfchair-forms; and

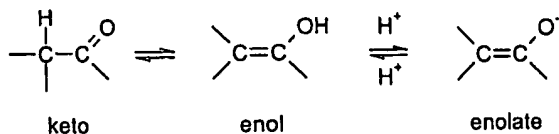
combinations thereof, hereinafter collectively referred to as "isomers" (or "isomeric forms").

Preferably if the compound of the fifth aspect comprise a PBD moiety then this moiety has the following stereochemistry at the C11 position:



Note that, except as discussed below for tautomeric forms, specifically excluded from the term "isomers", as used herein, are structural (or constitutional) isomers (i.e. isomers which differ in the connections between atoms rather than merely by the position of atoms in space). For example, a reference to a methoxy group, $-OCH_3$, is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, a hydroxymethyl group, $-CH_2OH$. Similarly, a reference to ortho-chlorophenyl is not to be construed as a reference to its structural isomer, meta-chlorophenyl. However, a reference to a class of structures may well include structurally isomeric forms falling within that class (e.g. C_{1-7} alkyl includes n-propyl and iso-propyl; butyl includes n-, iso-, sec-, and tert-butyl; methoxyphenyl includes ortho-, meta-, and para-methoxyphenyl).

The above exclusion does not pertain to tautomeric forms, for example, keto-, enol-, and enolate-forms, as in, for example, the following tautomeric pairs: keto/enol (illustrated below), imine/enamine, amide/imino alcohol, amidine/amidine, nitroso/oxime, thioketone/enethiol, N-nitroso/hydroxyazo, and nitro/aci-nitro.



Note that specifically included in the term "isomer" are compounds with one or more isotopic substitutions. For example, H may be in any isotopic form, including ^1H , ^2H (D), and ^3H (T); C may be in any isotopic form, including ^{12}C , ^{13}C , and ^{14}C ; O may be in any isotopic form, including ^{16}O and ^{18}O ; and the like.

Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound includes all such isomeric forms, including (wholly or partially) racemic and other mixtures thereof. Methods for the preparation (e.g. asymmetric synthesis) and separation (e.g. fractional crystallisation and chromatographic means) of such isomeric forms are either known in the art or are readily obtained by adapting the methods taught herein, or known methods, in a known manner.

Unless otherwise specified, a reference to a particular compound also includes ionic, salt, solvate, and protected forms of thereof, for example, as discussed below.

It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle a corresponding salt of the active compound, for example, a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts are discussed in Berge, et al., *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 66, 1-19 (1977).

For example, if the compound is anionic, or has a functional group which may be anionic (e.g. $-\text{COOH}$ may be $-\text{COO}^-$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable cation. Examples of suitable inorganic cations include, but are not limited to, alkali metal ions such as Na^+ and K^+ , alkaline earth cations such as Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} , and other cations such as Al^{3+} . Examples of suitable organic cations include, but are not limited to, ammonium ion (i.e. NH_4^+) and substituted ammonium ions (e.g. NH_3R^+ , NH_2R_2^+ , NHR_3^+ , NR_4^+). Examples of some suitable substituted ammonium ions are those derived from: ethylamine, diethylamine, dicyclohexylamine, triethylamine, butylamine, ethylenediamine, ethanolamine,

diethanolamine, piperazine, benzylamine, phenylbenzylamine, choline, meglumine, and tromethamine, as well as amino acids, such as lysine and arginine. An example of a common quaternary ammonium ion is $N(CH_3)_4^+$.

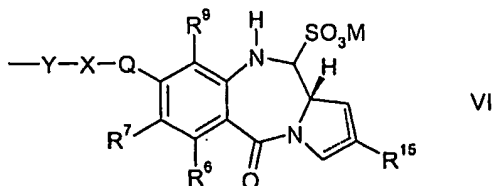
5

If the compound is cationic, or has a functional group which may be cationic (e.g. $-NH_2$ may be $-NH_3^+$), then a salt may be formed with a suitable anion. Examples of suitable inorganic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following inorganic acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, hydroiodic, sulfuric, 10 sulfurous, nitric, nitrous, phosphoric, and phosphorous.

Examples of suitable organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from the following organic acids:

15 2-acetyloxybenzoic, acetic, ascorbic, aspartic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, cinnamic, citric, edetic, ethanedisulfonic, ethanesulfonic, fumaric, glucheptonic, gluconic, glutamic, glycolic, hydroxymaleic, hydroxynaphthalene carboxylic, isethionic, lactic, lactobionic, lauric, maleic, malic, 20 methanesulfonic, mucic, oleic, oxalic, palmitic, pamoic, pantothenic, phenylacetic, phenylsulfonic, propionic, pyruvic, salicylic, stearic, succinic, sulfanilic, tartaric, toluenesulfonic, and valeric. Examples of suitable polymeric organic anions include, but are not limited to, those derived from 25 the following polymeric acids: tannic acid, carboxymethyl cellulose.

A particular salt form of interest can be formed from moieties of formula VI, where R^{10} and R^{11} form an imine bond, by reacting said 30 compound with a bisulphite salt to form a bisulphite derivative of the PBD. These compounds can be represented as:



where M is a monovalent pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or if the compound is a dimer, the two M groups may together represent a divalent pharmaceutically acceptable cation, and the other groups are as previously defined.

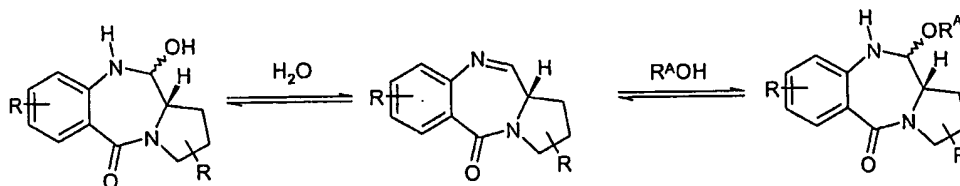
5

It may be convenient or desirable to prepare, purify, and/or handle a corresponding solvate of the active compound. The term "solvate" is used herein in the conventional sense to refer to a complex of solute (e.g. active compound, salt of active compound) and solvent. If the solvent is water, the solvate may be conveniently referred to as a hydrate, for example, a mono-hydrate, a di-hydrate, a tri-hydrate, etc.

10

If the compounds of the fifth aspect comprise a PBD moiety then solvates of particular relevance are those where the solvent adds across the imine bond of the PBD moiety, which is illustrated below where the solvent is water or an alcohol ($R^A\text{OH}$, where R^A is an ether substituent as described above):

15



20

These forms can be called the carbinolamine and carbinolamine ether forms of the PBD. The balance of these equilibria depend on the conditions in which the compounds are found, as well as the nature of the moiety itself.

25

In general any nucleophilic solvent is capable of forming such solvates as illustrated above for hydroxylic solvents. Other nucleophilic solvents include thiols and amines.

30

These solvates may be isolated in solid form, for example, by lyophilisation.

General synthetic routes

Compounds of formula I may be made by a variety of routes, some of which are discussed below.

5 *Modification of commercially available materials*

Some compounds of formula 1 are commercially available:

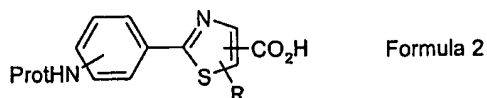


and can be readily modified to give compounds of formula I. The first step is protection of the carboxy group, for example as a methyl ester, using, for example EDCI, DMAP and MeOH in DMF. The nitro group can then be reduced to an amino group, for example using H_2 with a Pd/C catalyst in ethanol. The amino group can be protected, if necessary, for example by the use of Boc_2O in THF, and the carboxy group may be deprotected by hydrolysis, for example using NaOH.

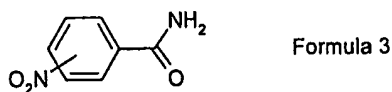
Heterocyclic ring closures

If one of A and B is a heteroarylene group, then the compound of formula I can be synthesised from an appropriate precursor by means of a ring closure reaction.

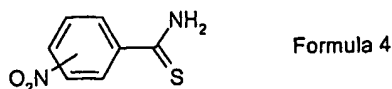
For example, compounds of formula 2:



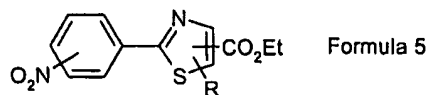
may be synthesised from a compound of formula 3:



The compound of formula 3 can be converted into a compound of formula 4:



by using Lawessons reagent, and this can then be ring closed to form a compounds of formula 5:



The ring closure may be accomplished by known methods, for example reaction with ethyl bromopyruvate or ethyl 2-chloroacetoacetate. The nitro group may be converted to an amine group and protected in a similar manner to that discussed above, and the carboxy group may be deprotected also in a similar way to above.

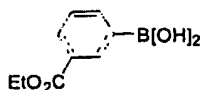
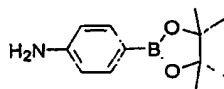
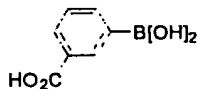
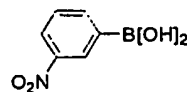
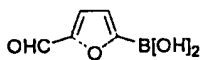
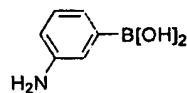
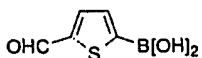
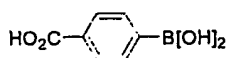
Suzuki coupling

Compounds of formula I may be synthesised by the coupling of the two C₅₋₆ arylene groups using Suzuki methodology. The groups -NHZ and -CO-Z' may be present on the C₅₋₆ arylene groups in their final form prior to coupling, or may be present as precursors (for example, a precursor to -NHZ is NO₂ - see above for conversion; a precursor of CO-Z' is -CHO, which can be converted by oxidation and optionally protected).

The coupling groups (e.g. Br and boronic acid/ester) may be either way round on A and B.

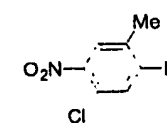
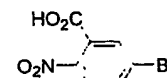
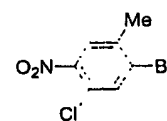
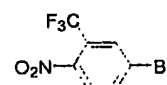
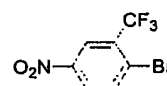
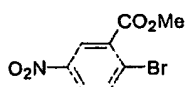
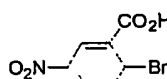
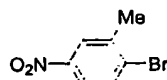
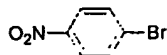
Suitable commercially available arylboronic acids/esters include:

Boronic acids and Esters

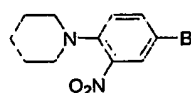
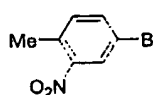
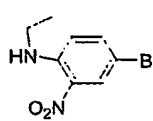
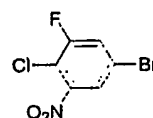
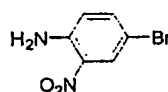
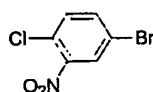
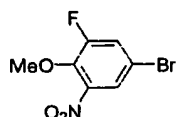
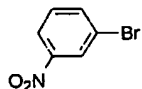


Suitable commercially available bromo compounds include:

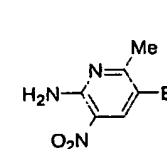
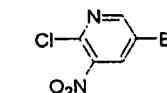
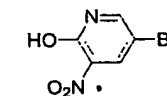
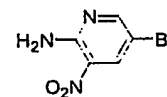
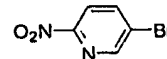
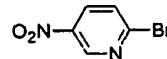
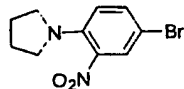
1-Bromo-4-nitrobenzenes



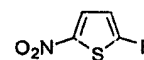
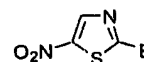
1-Bromo-3-nitrobenzenes



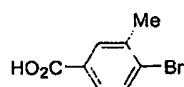
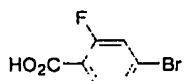
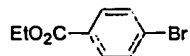
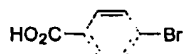
Pyridine Systems



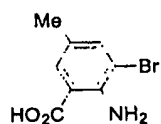
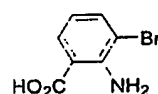
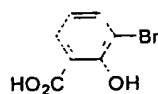
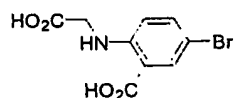
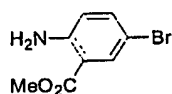
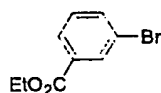
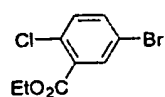
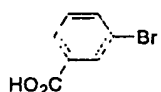
5-Membered Rings



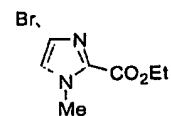
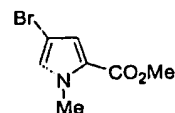
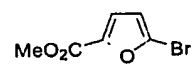
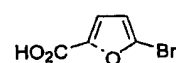
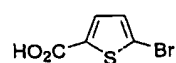
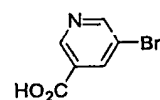
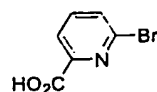
4-Bromobenzoic acids



3-Bromobenzoic acids



Heterocyclic bromocarboxylic acids

Polyamido moieties

- 5 Polyamido moieties comprising a unit of formula II may be synthesised by reacting a compound of formula I with a compound having an amino or carboxy (or equivalent) terminating group. Typically, one end of compound I will be protected to prevent self-condensation. The other units described in the second aspect

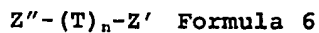
are well known, as are methods of amide bond formation. Typically, the carboxy group may be activated as an acid chloride group, or coupling initiators used, e.g. HOBt and EDCI.

5 Pyrrolobenzodiazepine moieties

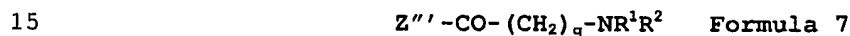
The synthesis of pyrrolobenzodiazepine moieties as described in the fifth aspect of the invention are described in WO 00/12506. Protection at the C11 position can be readily introduced.

10 Compounds of formula IV

Compounds of formula IV may be synthesised by reacting a polyamido chain of formula 6:



with a compound of formula 7:

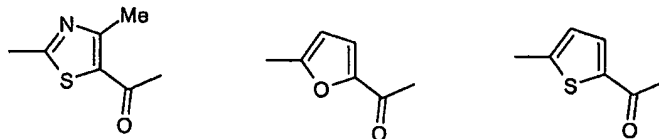


where Z''' is either OH or Cl, under amide bond forming conditions as described above. The compound of formula 6 may be formed as discussed above for polyamido moieties.

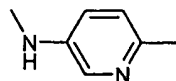
20 Further preferences

The following preferences may apply to all aspects of the invention as described above, or may relate to a single aspect. The preferences may be combined together in any combination.

25 In the first aspect of the invention, it is preferred that if B is phenylene with -NH- β to the bond between A and B, then -A-CO- is not:



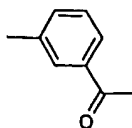
In the first aspect, it is also preferred that if -NH-B- is :



30

then -A-CO- is not:

37



In the first aspect, it is further preferred that if B is phenylene, then A is not thiazolylene, furanylene or thiphenylene
5 and if B is pyridylene, then A is not phenylene.

If Z' is a protected hydroxyl group, it is preferably an alkoxy group, and more preferably methoxy or ethoxy.

10 It is preferred that A and B are independently selected from phenylene, and arylene groups derived from C₅ heteroaryl groups having one or two heteroatoms, preferably at least one of which is nitrogen (i.e. pyrrole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, isothiazole, imidazole and pyrazole). Of these, pyrrole, oxazole, thiazole and
15 imidazole are preferred. The nitrogen atom of these groups may be substituted with a C₁₋₄ alkyl group, which is more preferably methyl.

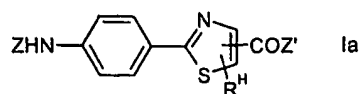
The amino and carbonyl groups are preferably bound to A and B
20 respectively at a position β- or γ- to the bond between A and B (i.e. not adjacent to the bond between A and B).

In some embodiments, one of A and B is phenylene and the other of A and B is a C₅-heteroarylene group, preferably with one or two
25 hetero ring atoms, one of which ring atoms is nitrogen.

Preferable substituents on A and B include, but are not limited to: C₁₋₄ alkyl (e.g. Me, CF₃), C₁₋₄ alkoxy (e.g. MeO, EtO), halo (e.g. Cl, F) and amino, preferably substituted by one or two C₁₋₄
30 alkyl groups.

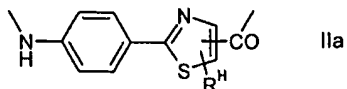
Particularly preferred compounds of formula I are of formula Ia:

38



where R^h is selected from H and C₁₋₄ alkyl, and is preferably H or Me.

5 Particularly preferred units of formula II are of formula IIa:



where R^H is selected from H and C₁₋₄ alkyl, and is preferably H or Me.

10 If compounds of the fifth aspect comprise a PBD moiety, then the following preferences are relevant:

R^9 is preferably H.

15 R⁶ is preferably selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, nitro and halo,
and is more preferably H or halo, and most preferably is H.

R⁷ is preferably independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', and halo, and more preferably independently selected from H and OR, where R is preferably selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₁₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₁₀ aryl groups. Preferably R⁷ is OMe or H and most preferably OMe.

R¹⁰ is preferably BOC, Troc or alloc and is most preferably alloc.

25 R¹⁵ is preferably THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group (for example TBS) and is most preferably THP.

In other embodiments of the invention, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ together form a
30 double bond between N10 and C11.

Q is preferably NH, O or a single bond and most preferably NH or O.

X is preferably a single bond or C₁₋₇ alkylene, more preferably a single bond or C₃ alkylene.

5 R³ is preferably H.

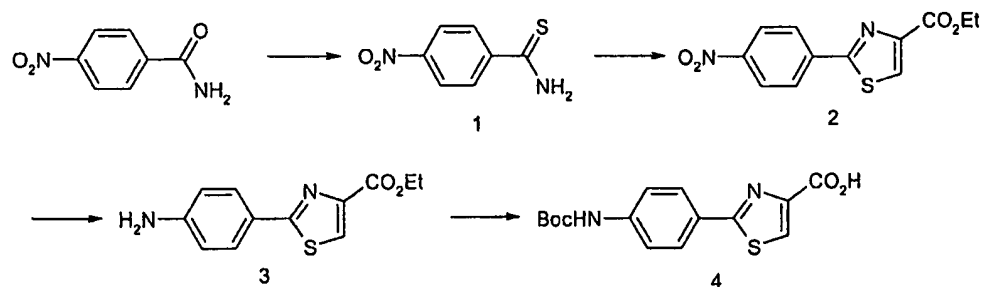
R² is preferably R, and is more preferably an optionally substituted C₅₋₂₀ aryl group. Most preferred is an optionally substituted phenyl group.

10

Brief Description of Figure

Figure 1 shows an illustrative example of an electrophoresis gel in a DNA footprinting experiment (see Example 7).

15 **Example 1 - 2-(4-tert-Butyloxycarbonylamino-phenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4)**



(a) 4-Nitrothiobenzamide (1)

A suspension of 4-nitrobenzamide (5g, 30.1mmol) in chlorobenzene (150mL) was stirred at 80°C and Lawessons reagent (7.3g, 18.1mmol, 0.6equiv.) was added. The reaction mixture became orange/red in colour and all of the starting material dissolved. The solution was allowed to cool to room temperature and was stirred overnight. The precipitate formed was collected on a filter, washed with hexane then dried under vacuum. The crude product (6.0g) was recrystallised from ethanol/water to give the product 1 as gold coloured needles (3.81g, 70%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 10.20 (1H, bs, N-H), 9.80 (1H, bs, N-H), 8.25 (2H, d, J = 8.9Hz, H-3,5), 8.02 (2H, d, J = 8.9Hz, H-2,6); ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 198.2, 148.5, 145.1, 128.4 (CH), 123.1 (CH).

(b) Ethyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylate (2)

A suspension of the 4-nitrothiobenzamide (1) (3.5g, 19.2mmol) was stirred in ethanol (50mL) and ethyl bromopyruvate (3.75g, 19.2mmol, 1.0equiv.) was added. The mixture was heated at reflux for 4 hours then cooled and triethylamine (2.67mL, 19.2mmol, 1.0equiv.) added. The precipitate was collected on a filter, washed with water and dried under vacuum. The yield of white solid 2 was 4.01g (75%).

^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.69 (1H, s, H-5), 8.31 (2H, d, J = 9.0Hz, H-3',5'), 8.20 (2H, d, J = 9.0Hz, H-2',6'), 4.34 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, CH_2), 1.33 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 165.1, 160.4, 148.3, 147.5, 137.6, 131.1 (CH), 127.5 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 61.0 (CH_2), 14.1 (CH_3).

(c) Ethyl 2-(4-aminophenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylate (3)

A solution of ethyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylate (2) (3.8g, 13.7mmol) and ammonium formate (5.17g, 82mmol) in ethanol (200mL) was stirred at room temperature. To this was added a suspension of 10%w/w palladium on charcoal (1.14g, 30%w/w) in ethanol (50mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 36 hours at room temperature then filtered through celite. The celite pad was washed with hot ethanol (2 x 50mL). The combined filterates were concentrated to give a cream coloured crystalline solid 3 (3.65g). This was washed with water (3 x 50mL) and dried under vacuum. The yield was 2.252g, 66%).

^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.32 (1H, s, H-5), 7.65 (2H, d, J = 8.6Hz, H-2',6'), 6.65 (2H, d, J = 8.6Hz, H-3',5'), 5.77 (2H, bs, N-H), 4.32 (2H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH_2), 1.33 (3H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH_3); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 168.9, 160.9, 151.5, 146.4, 127.8 (CH), 126.4 (CH), 119.9, 113.6 (CH), 60.6 (CH_2), 14.2 (CH_3).

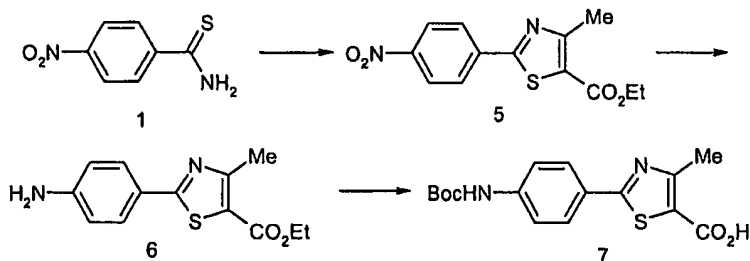
(d) 2-(4-tert-Butyloxycarbonylamino)phenylthiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4)

Ethyl 2-(4-aminophenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylate (3) (1g, 4.0mmol) was dissolved in dry THF (25mL) and Boc anhydride (0.88g, 4.0mmol),

1.0equiv.) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at reflux under a nitrogen atmosphere for 18 hours. A further equivalent of Boc anhydride (0.88g, 4.0mmol) was then added and the mixture heated for a further 18 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and the solvent removed under vacuum. The residue was diluted with methanol (50mL) and then 1M aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (50mL) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at reflux for 4 hours then cooled to room temperature and stirred overnight. The volume was reduced under vacuum and the aqueous solution acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid (~50mL) to pH 2-3. The resulting aqueous suspension was extracted with dichloromethane (4 x 50mL). The combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give a pale yellow solid 4, 1.27g (98%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 13.10 (1H, bs, O-H), 9.70 (1H, bs, N-H), 8.42 (1H, s, H-5), 7.88 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, H-2',6'), 7.62 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, H-3',5'), 1.50 (9H, s, t-Bu CH₃); ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 167.3, 162.0, 152.5, 147.9, 141.9, 127.9 (CH), 127.1 (CH), 126.3, 118.2 (CH), 79.5, 28.0 (CH₃).

Example 2 - 2-(4-tert-Butyloxycarbonylamino-phenyl)thiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylic acid (7)



(a) *Ethyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)thiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylate (5)*
This was made from 4-nitrothiobenzamide (1) by reacting with ethyl 2-chloroacetoacetate in a similar way to Example 1(b).

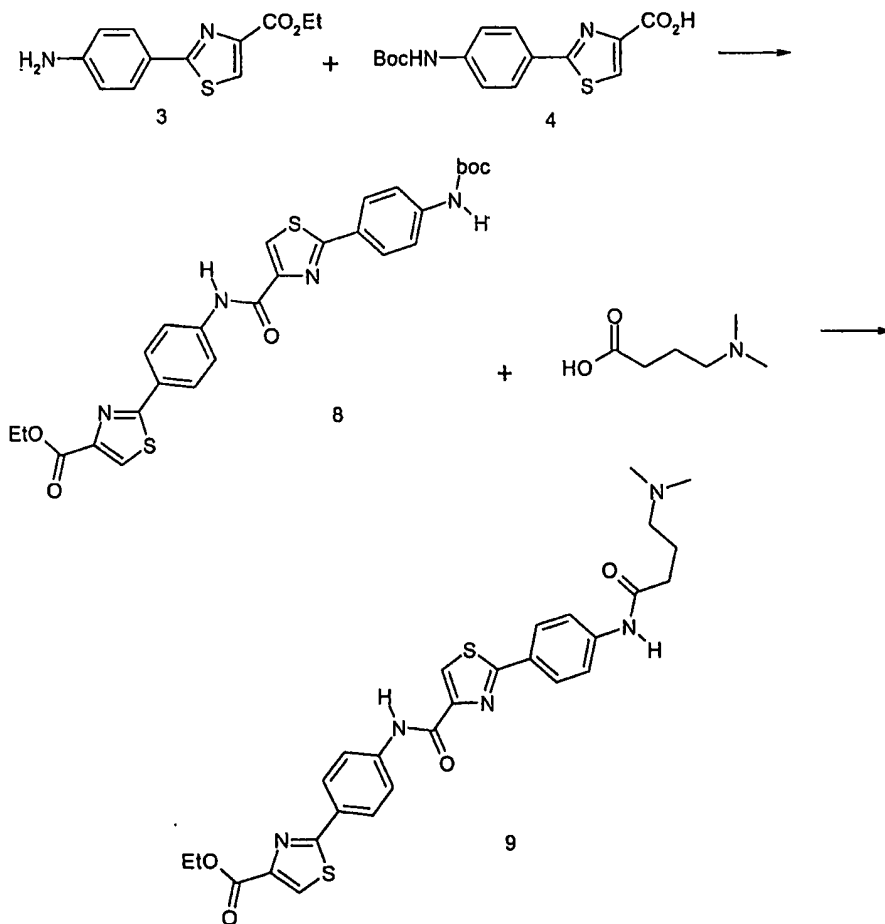
(b) Ethyl 2-(4-aminophenyl)thiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylate (6)

This was made from ethyl 2-(4-nitrophenyl)thiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylate (5) using the method of Example 1(c).

5 (c) 2-(4-tert-Butyloxycarbonylamino)phenylthiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylic acid (7)

This was made from ethyl 2-(4-aminophenyl)thiazole-4-methyl-5-carboxylate (6) using the method of Example 1(d).

10 Example 3 - Ethyl 2-[4-({2-[4-(4-dimethylaminobutyrylamino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carbonyl}amino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carboxylate (9)



(a) Ethyl 2-(4-([2-(4-tert-butyloxycarbonylamino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carbonyl)amino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carboxylate (8)

Ethyl 2-(4-aminophenyl)thiazole-4-carboxylate (3) (0.039g, 0.16mmol) and 2-(4-tert-butyloxycarbonylamino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carboxylic acid (4) (0.050g, 0.16mmol) were dissolved in dry DMF (1mL) and stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere. EDCI (0.060g, 0.16mmol, 2.0equiv.) and then DMAP (0.047g, 0.16mmol, 2.5equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 48 hours. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (10mL) and washed with 10%v/v hydrochloric acid (3 x 5mL) and then saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 5mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give an off white solid 8. The yield was 0.070g (81%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 10.44 (1H, bs, N-H), 9.73 (1H, bs, Boc N-H), 8.56 (1H, s, H-5), 8.46 (1H, s, H-5), 8.09 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H), 8.08 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H), 8.02 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H), 7.66 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H), 4.36 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, CH₂), 1.52 (9H, s, Boc CH₃), 1.35 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH₃).

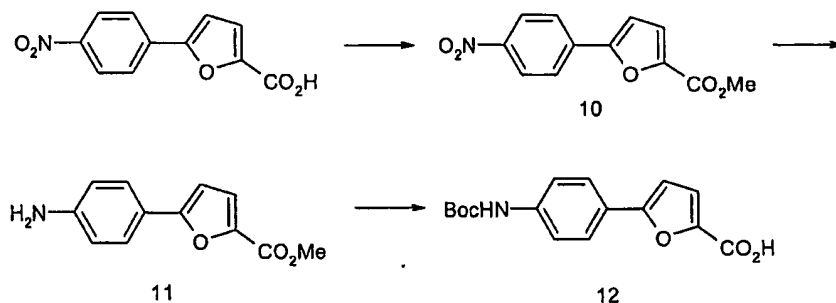
(b) Ethyl 2-[4-([2-[4-(4-dimethylaminobutyrylamino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carbonyl)amino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carboxylate (9)

Ethyl 2-(4-([2-(4-tert-butyloxycarbonylamino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carbonyl)amino)phenyl]thiazole-4-carboxylate (8) (0.020g, 0.036mmol) was dissolved in a 4M solution of hydrogen chloride in dioxane (1mL) with stirring. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour under nitrogen, during which time a suspension formed. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue dried under vacuum. The residue and N,N-dimethylaminobutyric acid (0.016g, 0.12mmol, 3.3equiv) were dissolved in dry DMF (1mL) and stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere. EDCI (0.060g, 0.16mmol, 2.0equiv.) and then DMAP (0.047g, 0.16mmol, 2.5equiv.) were added and the reaction mixture stirred at room temperature for 96 hours. The solution was diluted with ethyl acetate (15mL) and washed with

saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 5mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give an off white solid 9. The yield was 0.021g (93%).

¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 10.48 (1H, bs, N-H), 10.18 (1H, bs, N-H), 8.56 (2H, s, H-5), 8.20-7.98 (8H, m, phenyl-H), 4.36 (2H, t, *J* = 7.1Hz, CH₂), 2.45-1.53 (6H, m, butyryl C-H), 2.17 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2.12 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 1.36 (3H, t, *J* = 7.1Hz, CH₃).

Example 4 - 5-(4-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylaminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid (12)



(a) Methyl 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (10)

A suspension of 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-furoic acid (4.9g, 21.0mmol) was suspended in dry dichloromethane (50mL) and oxalyl chloride (2.998g, 23.6mmol, 1.1equiv.) was added with stirring. After 5 minutes DMF (2 drops) was added and the flask fitted with a calcium chloride drying tube. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight during which time a homogeneous solution formed. A solution of triethylamine (4.768g, 46.2mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry methanol (20mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further two hours then the concentrated under vacuum. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (200mL) and washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then

concentrated under vacuum to a cream coloured solid 10, 4.972g (96%).

¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 8.32 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0Hz, H-3',5'), 8.06 (2H, d, *J* = 9.0Hz, H-2',6'), 7.48 (2H, s, H-3,4), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 158.1, 154.2, 147.0, 144.5, 135.2, 134.5, 125.3 (CH), 124.5 (CH), 120.5 (CH), 111.6 (CH), 52.0 (CH₃); LCMS *R*_T = 3.50 min, (*M*⁺+1) = 248.

(b) Methyl 5-(4-aminophenyl)-2-furoate (11)

A solution/suspension of methyl 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (10) (5.083g, 20.6mmol) in ethyl acetate (240mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.5g, 10%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (10mL). The mixture was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere (30psi) for 4 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 50mL) and the combined filtrates concentrated under vacuum to give a pale yellow solid 11, 3.905g (87%).

¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.50 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6Hz, H-2',6'), 7.34 (1H, d, *J* = 3.4Hz, H-3), 6.79 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6Hz, H-4), 6.66 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6Hz, H-3',5'), 5.59 (2H, bs, N-H), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 158.7, 158.4, 150.0, 141.1, 125.9 (CH), 120.9 (CH), 116.5, 113.7 (CH), 104.0 (CH), 51.5 (CH₃); LCMS *R*_T = 2.73 min, (*M*⁺+1) = 218.

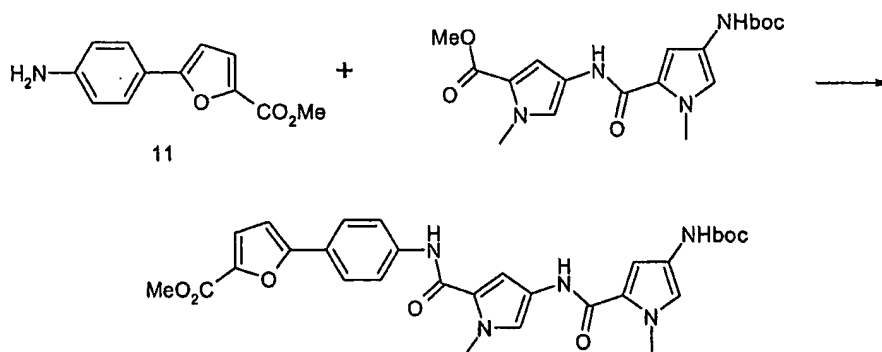
(c) 5-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid (12)

To the methyl 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (11) (1.5g, 6.1mmol) dissolved in ethyl acetate (100mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.3g, 20%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (20mL). The mixture was shaken under a hydrogen atmosphere (20psi) for 4 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 20mL) and the combined filterates concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in dry THF (40mL) and Boc anhydride (1.323g, 6.1mmol, 1.0equiv.) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature then heated at reflux for 6 hours. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue

dissolved in ethyl acetate (100mL). The solution was washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL), then water (1 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give a yellow solid. This was dissolved/suspended in methanol (50mL) and 1M sodium hydroxide (100mL) was added, then the mixture was heated at reflux for 4 hours then cooled and the methanol removed under vacuum. The solution was acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid (~100mL) then extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 100mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and then concentrated under vacuum to give a yellow solid 12, 1.454g, (76%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 9.57 (1H, bs, N-H), 7.69 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, H-2',6'), 7.56 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, H-3',5'), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, H-3), 6.98 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, H-4), 1.48 (9H, s, Boc-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 159.2, 156.5, 152.6, 143.4, 140.2, 125 (CH), 123.0, 120.0 (CH), 118.2 (CH), 106.4 (CH), 79.3, 28.0 (CH₃).

Example 5 - Methyl 4'-[(4-{[4-(4-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)amino]phenyl-2-furoate (13)



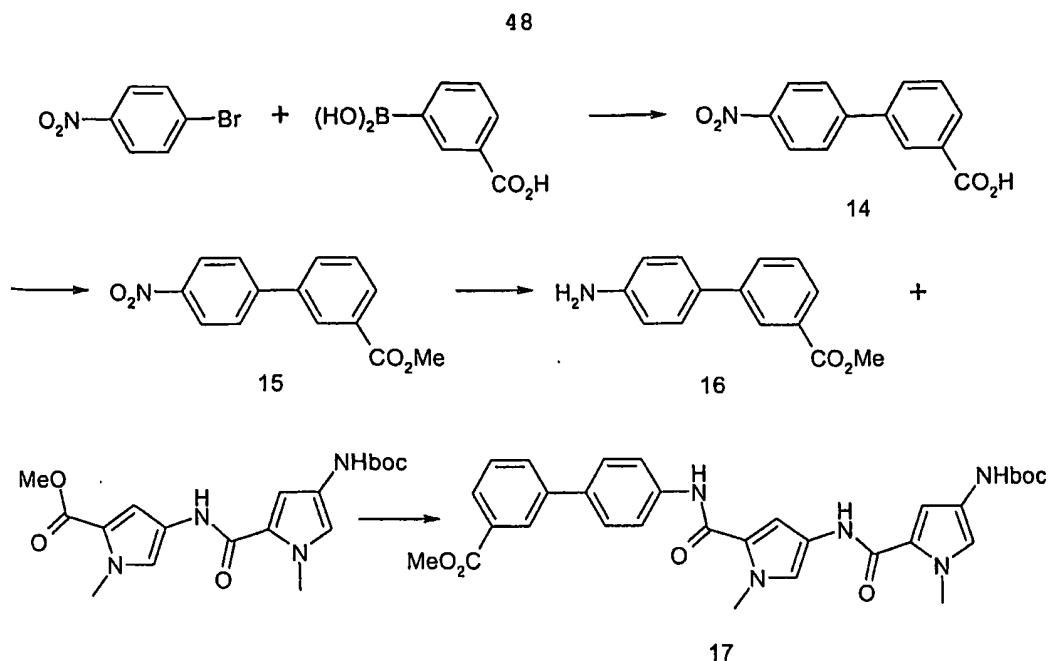
13

A solution of methyl 5-(4-aminophenyl)-2-furoate (11) (0.085g, 0.39mmol) and methyl 4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxyl)amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (0.15g, 0.41mmol, 1.05equiv.) in dry DMF (2mL) was added a suspension of EDCI (0.159g, 0.83mmol, 2.0equiv.) in dry DMF (1mL) and dry dichloromethane (1mL) followed by DMAP (0.126g, 1.03mmol,

2.5equiv.) dissolved in dry DMF (0.5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 days then concentrated under vacuum to a volume of ~1mL. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (20mL) and washed with 10%v/v hydrochloric acid (3 x 10mL), then saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 10mL). The organic fraction was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give a yellow oil 13, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, chloroform/methanol 1/99).

¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 10.05 (1H, bs, N-H), 9.90 (1H, bs, N-H), 9.10 (1H, bs, N-H), 7.90 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8Hz, H-2',6'), 7.78 (2H, d, *J* = 8.8Hz, H-3',5'), 7.43 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6Hz, py-H), 7.31 (1H, d, *J* = 1.5Hz, py-H), 7.21 (1H, d, *J* = 1.4Hz, py-H), 7.09 (1H, d, *J* = 3.6Hz, py-H), 6.92 (1H, bs, N-H), 6.87 (1H, bs, N-H), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.48 (9H, s, Boc-CH₃).

Example 6 - Methyl 4'-[(4-{[4-(4-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)amino]biphenyl-3-carboxylate (17)



(a) 3-(4-Nitrophenyl)benzoic acid (14)

1-Bromo-4-nitrobenzene (1.95g, 9.6mmol) and 3-carboxyphenylboronic acid (1.8g, 10.8mmol, 1.1equiv.) were dissolved in a mixture of toluene (40mL), ethanol (40mL) and water (5mL) and potassium carbonate (4.1g, 29.3mmol, 3.0equiv.) was added. The flask was purged with nitrogen gas then palladium tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) (0.2g) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (100mL) and extracted with water (3 x 50mL). The aqueous extracts were combined and washed with dichloromethane (3 x 50mL). The aqueous fraction was acidified (pH 1-2) with concentrated hydrochloric acid to give an off white precipitate, which was collected on a filter and dried under vacuum to give a white solid 14, 2.34g, (100%).

^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 13.20 (1H, bs, OH), 8.36-8.29 (3H, m, Ar-H), 8.07-8.01 (4H, m, Ar-H), 7.69 (1H, d, J = 7.8Hz, H-6); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 166.9, 146.9, 145.6, 138.2, 131.7 (CH), 131.6, 129.6 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 127.8 (CH), 124.1; LCMS R_t = 3.28 min, (M^-) = 242.

(b) Methyl 3-(4-nitrophenyl)benzoate (15)

A suspension of 3-(4-nitrophenyl)benzoic acid (14) (2g, 8.2mmol) in dry dichloromethane (50mL) and oxalyl chloride (1.15g, 9.0mmol, 1.1equiv.) was added. After 5 minutes DMF (2 drops) was added and the flask fitted with a calcium chloride drying tube. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight during which time a homogeneous solution formed. A solution of triethylamine (1.815g, 17.9mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry methanol (10mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride over 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further two hours then the concentrated under vacuum. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (150mL) and washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to a cream coloured solid 15, 1.966g (88%).

¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 8.33 (2H, d, *J* = 8.9Hz, H-3',5'), 8.27 (1H, m, Ar-H), 8.13-8.04 (2H, m, Ar-H), 8.01 (2H, d, *J* = 8.9Hz, H-2',6'), 7.71 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8Hz, H-5), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 165.9, 147.0, 145.4, 138.3, 132.0 (CH), 130.6, 129.8 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.1 (CH), 127.6 (CH), 124.1 (CH), 52.3 (CH₃); LCMS R_T = 2.77 min, (M⁺+1) = 228.

(c) Methyl 3-(4-aminophenyl)benzoate (16)

A solution of methyl 3-(4-aminophenyl)benzoate (15) (1.85g, 6.8mmol) in ethyl acetate (100mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.185g, 10%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (10mL). The mixture was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere (30psi) for 4 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (3 x 50mL) and the combined filtrates concentrated under vacuum to give a pale yellow solid 16, 1.663g (100%).

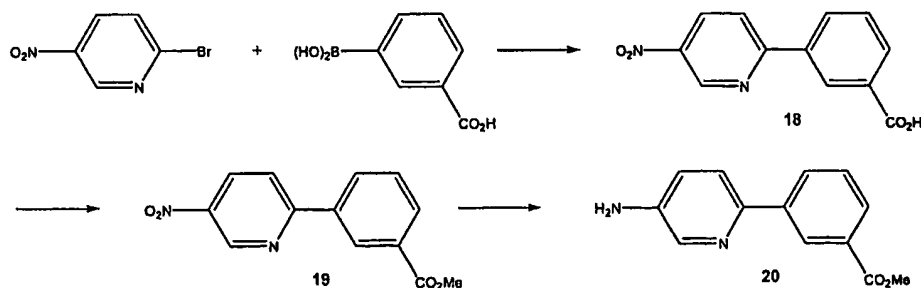
¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 8.09 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.7Hz, H-2), 7.85-7.80 (2H, m, H-4,6), 7.54 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8Hz, H-5), 7.41 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5Hz, H-2',6'), 6.68 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5Hz, H-3',5'), 3.89 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 166.4, 148.9, 141.2, 130.1 (CH), 129.2 (CH), 127.3 (CH), 126.2 (CH), 126.0, 125.6 (CH), 114.3 (CH), 52.1 (CH₃).

(d) Methyl 4'-[(4-[(4-(4-butoxycarbonylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)amino]biphenyl-3-carboxylate (17)

A solution of methyl 3-(4-aminophenyl)benzoate (16) (0.095g, 0.39mmol) and methyl 4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (0.15g, 0.41mmol, 1.05equiv.) in dry DMF (2mL) was added a suspension of EDCI (0.159g, 0.83mmol, 2.0equiv.) in dry DMF (1mL) and dry dichloromethane (1mL) followed by DMAP (0.126g, 1.03mmol, 2.5equiv.) dissolved in dry DMF (0.5mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 8 days then concentrated under vacuum to a volume of ~1mL. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (20mL) and washed with 10%v/v hydrochloric acid (3 x 10mL), then saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 10mL). The organic fraction was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give a yellow oil 17, which was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, chloroform/methanol 1/99).

¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.28 (1H, dd, J = 1.6Hz, Ar-H), 8.00 (1H, dd, J = 1.3, 7.8Hz, Ar-H), 7.78 (1H, m, Ar-H), 7.69-7.60 (6H, m, Ar-H), 7.51 (1H, dd, J = 1.7Hz, H-5 (biphenyl)), 7.45 (1H, bs, N-H), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, py-H), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, py-H), 6.61 (1H, bs, N-H), 6.22 (1H, bs, N-H), 3.98 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.96 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, CH₃), 1.55 (9H, s, Boc-CH₃).

Example 7 - Methyl 3-(5-aminopyridin-2-yl)benzoate (20)



(a) 3-(5-Nitropyridin-2-yl)benzoic acid (18)

2-Bromo-5-nitropyridine (1.96g, 9.6mmol) and 3-carboxybenzeneboronic acid (1.8g, 10.8mmol, 1.1equiv.) were

dissolved in a mixture of toluene (40mL), ethanol (40mL) and water (5mL) and potassium carbonate (4.1g, 29.3mmol, 3.0equiv.) was added. The flask was purged with nitrogen gas then palladium tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) (0.2g) was added and the mixture
5 heated at reflux for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (100mL) and extracted with water (3 x 50mL). The aqueous extracts were combined and washed with dichloromethane (3 x 50mL). The aqueous fraction was acidified (pH 1-2) with concentrated hydrochloric
10 acid to give an off white precipitate, which was collected on a filter and dried under vacuum to give a white solid 18, 2.132g (91%).

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (d_6 -DMSO) δ 13.21 (1H, bs, CO_2H), 9.46 (1H, d, $J = 2.7\text{Hz}$, H-6'), 8.75 (1H, dd, $J = 1.6\text{Hz}$, H-2), 8.66 (1H, dd, $J = 2.7, 8.8\text{Hz}$, H-4'), 8.42 (1H, ddd, $J = 1.2, 1.9, 7.9\text{Hz}$, H-6), 8.33 (1H, dd, $J = 8.8\text{Hz}$, H-3'), 8.10 (1H, m, H-4), 7.69 (1H, dd, $J = 7.8\text{Hz}$, H-5); ^{13}C
15 NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 166.8, 159.9, 144.9 (CH), 143.3, 136.9, 132.8 (CH), 131.7, 131.6 (CH), 131.3 (CH), 129.5 (CH), 128.2 (CH), 120.8 (CH); LCMS $R_T = 3.00$ min, $(M^-1) = 243$.

20

(b) Methyl 3-(5-nitropyridin-2-yl)benzoate (19)

A suspension of 3-(4-nitrophenyl)benzoic acid (2g, 8.2mmol) in dry dichloromethane (50mL) and oxalyl chloride (1.15g, 9.0mmol, 1.1equiv.) was added. After 5 minutes DMF (2 drops) was added and
25 the flask fitted with a calcium chloride drying tube. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight during which time a homogeneous solution formed. A solution of triethylamine (1.815g, 17.9mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry methanol (10mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride over 20 minutes. The reaction mixture was
30 stirred for a further two hours then the concentrated under vacuum. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (150mL) and washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to a
35 white solid 19, 1.936g (86%).

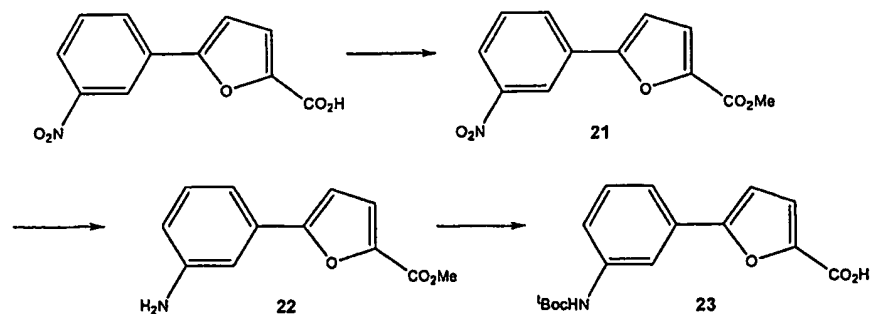
^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 9.47 (1H, d, J = 2.4Hz, H-6'), 8.77 (1H, dd, J = 1.7Hz, H-2), 8.67 (1H, dd, J = 2.7, 8.8Hz, H-4'), 8.46 (1H, m, H-6), 8.35 (1H, d, J = 8.6Hz, H-3'), 8.11 (1H, m, H-4), 7.72 (1H, dd, J = 7.8Hz, H-5), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 165.8, 159.7, 144.9 (CH), 143.4, 137.0, 132.9 (CH), 132.0 (CH), 131.1 (CH), 130.5, 129.7 (CH), 128.0 (CH), 120.9 (CH), 52.3 (CH_3); LCMS R_T = 3.58 min, ($M^+ + 1$) = 259.

(c) Methyl 3-(5-aminopyridin-2-yl)benzoate (20)

A solution of methyl 3-(4-aminophenyl)benzoate (1.80g, 6.6mmol) in ethyl acetate (100mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.185g, 10%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (10mL). The mixture was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere (30psi) for 4 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (3 x 50mL) and the combined filtrates concentrated under vacuum to give an oil which solidified on cooling, 1.598g (100%) of 20.

^1H -NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 8.56 (1H, dd, J = 1.7Hz, H-2), 8.15 (1H, m, H-6), 8.06 (1H, d, J = 2.6Hz, H-6'), 7.85 (1H, m, H-4), 7.70 (1H, d, J = 8.5Hz, H-3'), 7.53 (1H, dd, J = 7.8Hz, H-5), 7.02 (1H, dd, J = 2.8, 8.5Hz, H-4'), 5.59 (2H, bs, NH_2), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH_3); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 166.4, 144.6, 142.2, 139.8, 136.1 (CH), 129.9, 129.3 (CH), 129.0 (CH), 127.4 (CH), 125.5 (CH), 120.4 (CH), 52.1 (CH_3); LCMS R_T = 1.88 min, ($M^+ + 1$) = 229.

Example 8 - 5-(3-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid (23)



(a) Methyl 5-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (21)

A suspension of 5-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-furoic acid (5.0g, 21.4mmol) was suspended in dry dichloromethane (50mL) and oxalyl chloride (2.998g, 23.6mmol, 1.1equiv.) was added with stirring. After 5 minutes DMF (2 drops) was added and the flask fitted with a calcium chloride drying tube. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight during which time a homogeneous solution formed. A solution of triethylamine (4.768g, 46.2mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry methanol (20mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further two hours then the concentrated under vacuum. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (200mL) and washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to an off white solid 21, 5.170g (98%).
¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 8.53 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.9Hz, H-2'), 8.24 (2H, m, H-4', 6'), 7.78 (1H, dd, *J* = 8.0Hz, H-5'), 7.46 (2H, m, H-3,4), 3.86 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 158.1, 154.1, 148.4, 143.8, 130.8 (CH), 130.6 (CH), 130.3, 123.4 (CH), 120.4 (CH), 118.7 (CH), 110.3 (CH), 52.0 (CH₃); LCMS R_T = 3.53 min, (M⁺+1) = 248.

(b) Methyl 5-(3-aminophenyl)-2-furoate (22)

A solution/suspension of methyl 5-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (5.047g, 20.4mmol) in ethyl acetate (240mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.5g, 10%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (10mL). The mixture was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere (30psi) for 4 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 50mL) and the combined filtrates concentrated under vacuum to give a pale yellow solid 22, 4.419g (100%).
¹H NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 7.37 (1H, d, *J* = 3.7Hz, H-3), 7.11 (1H, dd, *J* = 7.8Hz, H-5'), 7.03 (1H, dd, *J* = 1.9Hz, H-2'), 6.97 (1H, d, *J* = 3.7Hz, H-4), 6.95 (1H, m, H-6'), 6.60 (1H, m, H-4'), 5.31 (2H, s, NH₂), 3.83 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (*d*₆-DMSO) δ 158.3, 157.7, 149.2, 142.4, 129.5 (CH), 129.4, 120.5 (CH), 114.8 (CH), 112.4 (CH),

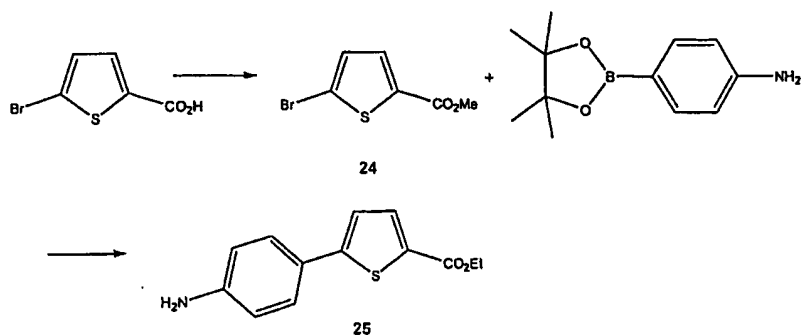
109.2 (CH), 107.2 (CH), 51.7 (CH₃); LCMS R_T = 2.58 min, (M⁺+1) = 218.

(c) 5-(3-tert-Butoxycarbonylaminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid
(23)

To the methyl 5-(3-nitrophenyl)-2-furoate (1.5g, 6.1mmol) dissolved in ethyl acetate (100mL) was added a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.3g, 20%equiv.) in ethyl acetate (20mL). The mixture was shaken under a hydrogen atmosphere (20psi) for 3 hours, then filtered through a celite pad. The celite was washed with ethyl acetate (2 x 20mL) and the combined filterates concentrated under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in dry THF (40mL) and Boc anhydride (1.323g, 6.1mmol, 1.0equiv.) was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature then heated at reflux for 6 hours. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue dissolved in ethyl acetate (100mL). The solution was washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 50mL), then water (1 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give an oil (Boc protected amine with excess Boc anhydride). This was dissolved in methanol (40mL) and 1M sodium hydroxide (100mL) was added, then the mixture was heated at 60°C for 6 hours then cooled and the methanol removed under vacuum. The solution was acidified with 1M hydrochloric acid to pH ~4. The resulting suspension was extracted with dichloromethane (4 x 50mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate and then concentrated under vacuum to give an off white solid, 1.572g, (82%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 13.09 (1H, s, OH), 9.50 (1H, bs, NH), 8.00 (1H, m, H-2'), 7.42 (1H, m, H-4'/6'), 7.40 (1H, m, H-4'/6'), 7.34 (1H, m, H-5'), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, H-3), 7.03 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, H-4), 1.49 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃); ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 159.2, 156.2, 152.7, 144.1, 140.2, 129.5, 129.4 (CH), 119.8 (CH), 118.6 (CH), 118.5 (CH), 113.5 (CH), 107.8 (CH), 79.2, 28.1 (CH₃).

55

Example 9 - Ethyl 5-(4-aminophenyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate (25)**(a) Methyl 5-bromothiophene-2-carboxylate (24)**

A suspension of 5-bromothiophene-2-carboxylic acid (1.0g, 4.8mmol) was suspended in dry dichloromethane (10mL) and oxalyl chloride (0.675g, 5.3mmol, 1.1equiv.) was added with stirring. After 5 minutes DMF (2 drops) was added and the flask fitted with a calcium chloride drying tube. The reaction mixture was stirred overnight during which time a homogeneous solution formed. A solution of triethylamine (1.073g, 10.6mmol, 2.2 equiv.) in dry methanol (5mL) was added dropwise to the acid chloride over 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was stirred for a further two hours then the concentrated under vacuum. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate (25mL) and washed with 1M hydrochloric acid (3 x 20mL) and saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 20mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to an off white crystalline solid 24, 1.019g (95%).

^1H NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 7.63 (1H, d, J = 4.0Hz, H-3), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 4.0Hz, H-4), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃); ^{13}C NMR (d_6 -DMSO) δ 160.7, 134.4 (CH), 134.0, 132.0 (CH), 119.6, 52.4 (CH₃); LCMS R_T = 3.57 min, ($M^+ - \text{Br}$) = 141.

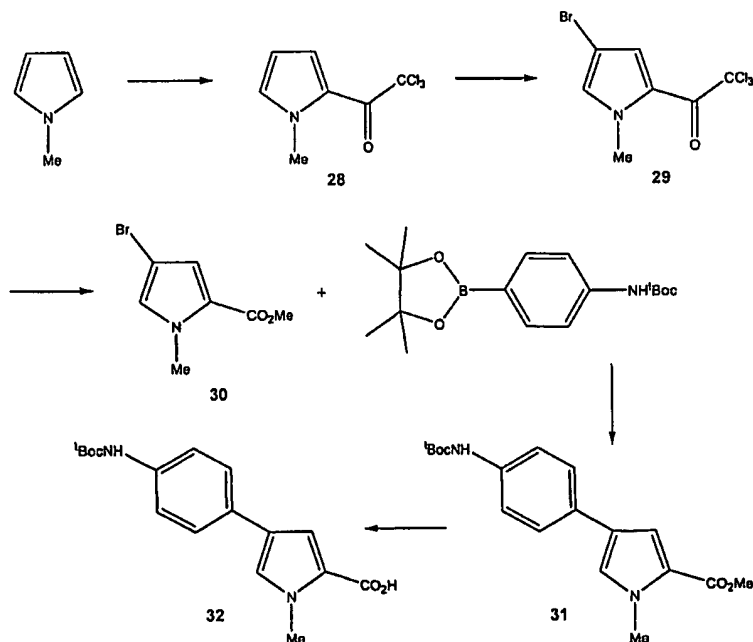
(b) Ethyl 5-(4-aminophenyl)thiophene-2-carboxylate (25)

Methyl 5-bromothiophene-2-carboxylate (0.916g, 4.1mmol) and 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-[1,3,2]dioxaboran-2-yl)-phenylamine (0.908g, 4.1mmol, 1.0equiv.) were dissolved in a mixture of toluene (5mL), ethanol (5mL) and water (1mL) and potassium carbonate (2.0g, 14.2mmol, 3.5equiv.) was added. The flask was purged with

nitrogen gas then palladium tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) (0.1g) was added and the mixture heated at reflux for 72 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and diluted with ethyl acetate (50mL), the organic layer was separated and washed with water (2 x 50mL) then brine (50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, eluted with CHCl₃:MeOH 99.5:0.5). This gave the transesterified ethyl ester as a yellow solid 0.467g (46%).

¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 7.68 (1H, d, J = 4.0Hz, H-3), 7.42 (2H, d, J = 8.6Hz, H-2',6'), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 3.9Hz, H-4), 6.60 (2H, d, J = 8.6Hz, H-3'5'), 5.55 (2H, s, NH₂), 4.27 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂), 1.29 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 161.5, 152.5, 150.0, 134.8 (CH), 128.2, 127.0 (CH), 121.1 (CH), 120.0, 113.9 (CH), 60.6 (CH₂), 14.2 (CH₃); LCMS R_T = 3.33 min, (M⁺+1) = 248.

Example 10 - 4-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid (32)



(a) 1-Methyl-2-trichloroacetylpyrrole (28)

To a stirred solution of trichloroacetyl chloride (122.8 mL, 1.1 mol, 1 Equiv.) in dry Et₂O (300 mL) was added dropwise a solution

of 1-methylpyrrole (98.7 mL, 1.11 mol, 1.01 Equiv.) in dry Et₂O (300 mL) over a period of 3 hours. Once the addition of the 1-methylpyrrole was complete it was stirred for a further 3 hours at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with the dropwise
5 addition of potassium carbonate solution (80 g in 250 mL) (Caution: gas formation). The reaction mixture was then transferred to a separating funnel and the organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer extracted (3 x EtOAc). The combined organic layers were dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated
10 under vacuum. The mixture was redissolved in ether and left to stand over night. The product crystallised as off white needles. (180 g, 72%) IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3299, 3121, 3008, 2954, 1789 (C=O), 1674, 1521, 1406, 1244, 1206, 1100, 980, 881, 757; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.42 (1H, d, H-3), 6.89 (1H, t, H-4), 6.15 (1H, d, H-5), 3.90 (3H, s, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 133.6 (C4), 124.0 (C3), 122.4 (C2), 108.9
15 (C5), 38.5 (CH₃).

(b) 4-Bromo-1-methyl-2-trichloroacetylpyrrole (29)

NBS (*N*-Bromosuccinimide, 2.36 g, 13.24 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) was added
20 to a stirred solution of 2-(trichloroacetyl)-1-methylpyrrole (3 g, 13.24 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in anhydrous THF (35 mL) at -10°C. The reaction mixture was kept at -10°C for 2 hours and then left to reach room temperature (ca. 4 h). The THF excess was evaporated in vacuum and the solid was redissolved in a mixture of EtOAc/Hexane
25 (1:9). The resulting mixture was filtered through a plug of silica, and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuum. The resulting solid was recrystallised from hexane to give the product 29. (3.55 g, 88%) IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3148, 2956, 1669 (C=O), 1458, 1411, 1345, 1215, 1189, 1062, 992, 923, 842, 823, 785, 748, 714, 678. ¹H NMR
30 (CDCl₃) rotamers δ 7.46 (78%) and 6.38 (22%) (1H, d, *J* = 1.7 (78%) and 1.7 (22%) Hz, H-3), 6.95 (78%) and 5.88 (22%) (1H, d, *J* = 1.5 (78%) and 1.6 (22%) Hz, H-5), 3.95 (78%) and 2.88 (22%) (3H, s, NCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) rotamers δ 172.4 (C=O), 132.8 (C5), 124.6 (C3), 132.2 (C2), 96.1 (78%) and 95.7 (22%) (C4), 38.7 (CH₃);

Elem. Anal. Calculated for $C_7H_5BrCl_3O$: C, 27.53; H, 1.65; N, 4.59.
Found: C, 27.73; H, 1.62; N, 4.54.

(c) Methyl 4-bromo-1-methylpyrrole-2-carboxylate (30)

5 To a stirred solution of 1-(4-Bromo-1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-
2,2,2-trichloro-ethanone (3.28 g, 10.74 mmol, 1 Equiv.) in dry
MeOH (30 mL) was added through a syringe a solution of sodium
methoxide (0.5 mL). The sodium methoxide solution was prepared
10 from NaH 60% in mineral oil (43 mg, 1.07 mmol, 0.1 Equiv.), which
was previously washed with hexane. The solution was heated to
reflux over a period of 30 minutes, when the TLC analysis showed
complete consumption of the starting material. Few drops of
concentrated H_2SO_4 were added to the solution to neutralise the
base (pH 2). The excess MeOH was evaporated in vacuum and the
15 resulting oil was redissolved in EtOAc (50 mL) and washed with
water (40 mL). The aqueous layer was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40
mL), and the organic phases were combined, dried ($MgSO_4$), filtered
and concentrated in vacuum to afford the product 30 as a pale
solid. (2.28 g, 97%) IR (film, cm^{-1}) 3138, 2948, 1692 (C=O), 1472,
20 1435, 1389, 1334, 1245, 1197, 1115, 1082, 1062, 921, 823, 807,
753; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 6.89 (1H, d, $J = 1.97Hz$, H-3), 6.76 (1H, d, J
= 1.93Hz, H-5), 3.89 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH_3); ^{13}C NMR
($CDCl_3$) δ 160.8 (C=O), 128.7 (C5), 122.9 (C2), 119.2 (C3), 95.1
(C4), 51.2 (OCH_3) 36.9 (CH_3).

25

(d) Methyl 4-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (31)

To a solution of 4-Bromo-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid
methyl ester 30 (726 mg, 3.33 mmol, 1 Equiv.) in ethanol (6 mL)
30 and toluene (4 mL) in a Emrys™ Process vial was added a solution
of CsF (873 mg, 5.75 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in water (1.5 mL), tert-
Butyl N-[4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-
yl)phenyl]carbamate (1.22 g, 3.83 mmol, 1.15 Equiv.) and $Pd(PPh_3)_4$
(64 mg, 0.07 mmol, 0.02 Equiv.) under nitrogen atmosphere and
35 magnetic stirring. The vial was sealed with with a Reseal™ septa,
and then the suspension was kept at 110°C for 30 minutes under

microwave radiation¹ when the TLC showed no presence of starting material. Afterwards, water (50 mL) was added to the reaction, and it was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL), the filtrates were combined and dried over MgSO₄, and then concentrated under vacuum.

5 The resulting oil was subject of flash chromatography (Hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to give the product 31 (440 mg, 40%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3353 (NH), 2975, 1696 (C=O), 1521, 1441, 1366, 1314, 1264, 1235, 1209, 1155, 1105, 1058, 822, 799, 657; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.40 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6Hz, H-2',6'), 7.33 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6Hz, H-3',5'),
10 7.16 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0Hz, H-3), 7.02 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0Hz, H-5), 6.45 (1H, bs, NH), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.83 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.52 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.7 (C=O), 152.8 (OC=ONH), 136.5 (C1'), 129.5 (C4'), 125.9 (C5), 125.6 (C2' and C6'), 123.7 (C4), 123.0 (C2), 119.0 (C5' and C3'), 114.6 (C3), 80.5 (OCquat), 51.1 (OCH₃)
15 36.9 (CH₃), 28.4 [CH₃]₃; MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 275.1 ([M - (CH₃)C]⁺ 100%), 331.2 ([M + H]⁺ 55%).

¹ Emrys™ Optimizer microwave station (Personal Chemistry).

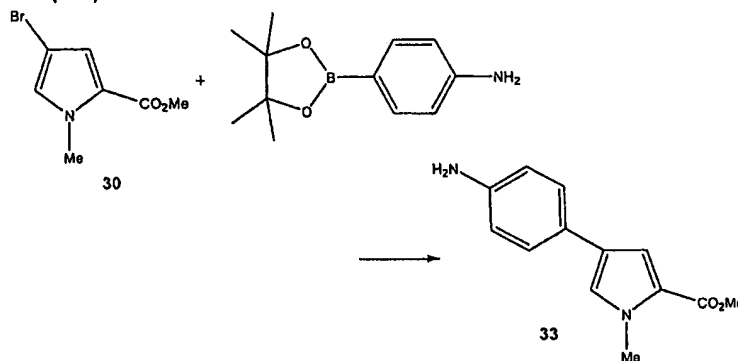
(e) 4-(4-*tert*-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-pyrrole-2-
20 caboxylic acid (32)

To a solution of 4-Bromo-1-methyl-1*H*-pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester (726 mg, 3.33 mmol, 1 Equiv.) in ethanol (6 mL) and toluene (4 mL) in a Emrys™ Process vial was added a solution of CsF (873 mg, 5.75 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in water (1.5 mL), *tert*-Butyl
25 N-[4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxoborolan-2-yl)phenyl]carbamate (1.22 g, 3.83 mmol, 1.15 Equiv.) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (64 mg, 0.07 mmol, 0.02 Equiv.) under nitrogen atmosphere and magnetic stirring. The vial was sealed with with a Reseal™ septa, and then the suspension was kept at 110°C for 30 minutes under microwave radiation¹ when
30 the TLC showed no presence of starting material. Afterwards, water (50 mL) was added to the reaction, and it was extracted with EtOAc (3 x 40 mL), the filtrates were combined and dried over MgSO₄, and then concentrated under vacuum. The resulting oil was subject of flash chromatography (Hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to give the product 32
35 (440 mg, 40%). IR (film, cm⁻¹): 3353 (NH), 2975, 1696 (C=O), 1521, 1441, 1366, 1314, 1264, 1235, 1209, 1155, 1105, 1058, 822, 799,

657. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz) δ 1.52 (s, 9 H, CCH_3), 3.83 (s, 3 H, OCH_3), 3.95 (s, 3 H, CH_3), 6.45 (br s, 1 H, NH), 7.02 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.03$ Hz, H5), 7.16 (d, 1 H, $J = 2.05$ Hz, H3), 7.33 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.58$ Hz, H5' and H3'), 7.40 (d, 2 H, $J = 8.64$ Hz, H2' and H6'). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ 161.7 (C=O), 152.8 (OC=ONH), 136.5 (C1'), 129.5 (C4'), 125.9 (C5), 125.6 (C2' and C6'), 123.7 (C4), 123.0 (C2), 119.0 (C5' and C3'), 114.6 (C3), 80.5 (OCquat), 51.1 (OCH_3) 36.9 (CH_3), 28.4 (CCH_3). MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 275.1 ($[\text{M} - (\text{CH}_3)\text{C}]^+$ 100%), 331.2 ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ 55%).

1 EmrysTM Optimizer microwave station (Personal Chemistry).

Example 11 - Methyl 4-(4-aminophenyl)-1-methyl-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (33)



(a) Methyl 4-(4-aminophenyl)-1-methyl-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (33)

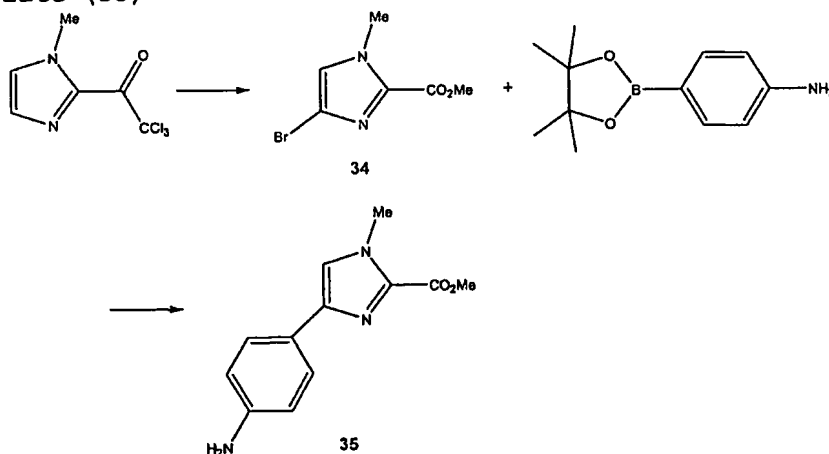
To a solution of 4-Bromo-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 30 (7.46 g, 34.23 mmol, 1.5 Equiv.) in ethanol (20 mL) and toluene (12 mL) divided between two EmrysTM Process vial was added a solution of CsF (5.20 g, 34.23 mmol, 1.5 Equiv.) in water (4.0 mL) 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)aniline (5 g, 22.82 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) and $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ (791 mg, 0.68 mmol, 0.03 Equiv.) under nitrogen atmosphere and magnetic stirring. The vial was sealed with with a ResealTM septa, and then the suspension was kept at 110°C for 20 minutes following further 20 minutes at 130°C under microwave radiation¹ when the TLC showed no presence of starting material. Afterwards, the TFA was added to the solution which was extracted with water (3x 50 mL). The aqueous phase was basified to pH 14 with NaOH, and it was extract

with EtOAc (3x 60 mL), the filtrates were combined and dried over MgSO₄, and then concentrated under vacuum. The resulting oil was subject of flash chromatography (Hexane/EtOAc 9:1) to give the product 33 (440 mg, 8%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3366 (NH), 3374 (NH), 2987, 2945, 1688 (C=O), 1629, 1566, 1513, 1441, 1422, 1398, 1372, 1262, 1206, 1181, 1103, 1067, 951, 821, 784, 756; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ. 7.18 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5Hz, H2',6'), 7.11 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0Hz, H-3), 6.94 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0Hz, H-5), 6.66 (2H, d, *J* = 8.5Hz, H-3',5'), 3.92 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.03 (2H, bs, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 161.7 (C=O), 144.8 (C1'), 126.2 (C2' and C6'), 125.5 (C5), 125.2 (C4'), 124.3 (C4), 122.7 (C2), 115.5 (C3' and C5'), 114.4 (C3), 51.1 (OCH₃) 36.8 (CH₃); MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 231.1 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

¹ Emrys™ Optimizer microwave station (Personal Chemistry).

15

Example 12 - Methyl 4-(4-aminophenyl)-1-methylimidazole-2-carboxylate (35)



(a) Methyl 4-bromo-1-methylimidazole-2-carboxylate (34)

20 NBS (*N*-Bromosuccinimide, 16.2 g, 91.0 mmol, 2.0 Equiv.) was added to a stirred solution of 2-(trichloroacetyl)-1-methylimidazole (as described by Nishiwaki, E.; Tanaka, S.; Lee, H. and Shibuya, M. *Heterocycles*, Vol. 27, No. 8, 1988, 1945-1952) (10.35 g, 45.5 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in anhydrous THF (180 mL) at -10°C. The reaction mixture was kept at -10°C for 2 hours and then left to reach room

25

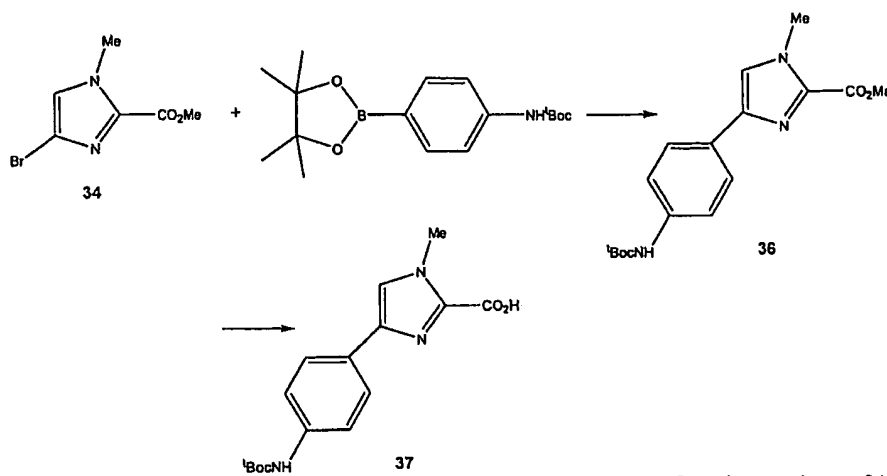
temperature (ca. 12 h). The THF excess was evaporated in vacuum and the solid was redissolved in chloroform and passed through a pad of Silica Gel (CHCl₃). The isolated compound was dried and redissolved in dried MeOH (100 mL). To the solution was added
5 through a syringe a solution of sodium methoxide (5 mL). The sodium methoxide solution was prepared from NaH 60% in mineral oil (165 mg, 4.10 mmol, 0.1 Equiv.), which was previously washed with hexane. The solution was heated to reflux over a period of 30 minutes, when the TLC analysis showed complete consumption of the
10 starting material. The excess of MeOH was evaporated in vacuum and the resulting oil was subject of a flash chromatography (CHCl₃/Hexane 8:2) to give a yellow solid **34**. (3.62 g, 36.3%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3121, 2949, 1718 (C=O), 1442, 1414, 1394, 1274, 1243, 1190, 1147, 1125, 1063, 950, 827, 804, 662, 631; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ
15 7.05 (1H, s, H-5), 4.01 (3H, s, CH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 158.6 (C=O), 136.0 (C2), 125.8 (C5), 115.6 (C4), 52.5 (OCH₃) 36.1 (CH₃); MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 219.01 ([M + H]⁺ 50%, 220.99 ([M + H]⁺ 50%).

20 (b) Methyl 4-(4-aminophenyl)-1-methylimidazole-2-carboxylate (**35**)
To a solution of 4-Bromo-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester **34** (3.90 mg, 1.78 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in DMF (3 mL) in an EmrysTM Process vial was added CsF (405 mg, 2.67 mmol, 2.0 Equiv.) and 4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxaborolan-2-yl)aniline
25 (429 mg, 1.96 mmol, 1.1 Equiv.) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (61.7 mg, 0.053 mmol, 0.03 equiv.) under nitrogen atmosphere and magnetic stirring. The vial was sealed with ResealTM septa, and then the suspension was kept at 110°C for 40 minutes. Afterwards, the DMF removed under vacuum and the resulting oil was subject of flash
30 chromatography (CHCl₃/Hexane 8:2) to give 4-(4-amino-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester **35** as red-brown solid (67 mg, 16%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3468 (NH), 3325 (NH), 3202 (NH), 2955, 1697 (C=O), 1624, 1449, 1281, 1201, 1183, 1122, 1066, 950, 837, 783, 641; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (2H, d, J = 8.5Hz, H2',6'), 7.19 (1H, s, H-5), 6.69 (2H, d, J = 8.5Hz, H-3',5'), 4.03

35

(3H, s, NCH₃), 3.96 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.71 (2H, bs, NH); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 159.7 (C=O), 146.0 (C1'), 142.4 (C4), 135.8 (C2), 126.5 (C2' and C6'), 123.6 (C4'), 121.0 (C5), 115.1 (C3' and C5'), 52.3 (OCH₃) 36.0 (CH₃); MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 232.03 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

Example 13 - 4-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid (37)



(a) Methyl 4-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-imidazole-2-carboxylate (36)

To a solution of 4-Bromo-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 34 (352.8 mg, 1.61 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in DMF (6 mL) in an Emrys™ Process vial was added CsF (489 mg, 3.22 mmol, 2.0 Equiv.) and tert-Butyl N-[4-(4,4,5,5-tetramethyl-1,3,2-dioxoborolan-2-yl)phenyl]carbamate (617 mg, 1.93 mmol, 1.2 Equiv.) and Pd(PPh₃)₄ (56 mg, 0.048 mmol, 0.03 Equiv.) under nitrogen atmosphere and magnetic stirring. The vial was sealed with Reseal™ septa, and then the suspension was kept at 110°C for 40 minutes. Afterwards, the DMF removed under vacuum and the resulting oil was subject of flash chromatography (Hexane/EtOAc 8:2) to give 4-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 36 as a yellow glass (85 mg, 16%). IR (film, cm⁻¹) 3355 (NH), 2982, 1692 (C=O); 1516, 1461, 1400, 1365, 1319, 1285, 1267, 1234, 1204, 1153, 1125, 1056, 949, 905, 834, 790, 652, 632; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ. 7.72 (2H, d, *J* = 8.6Hz,

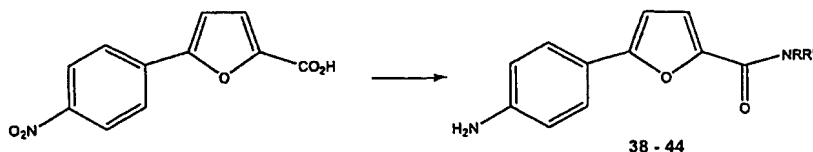
H2',6'), 7.38 (2H, d, $J = 8.5\text{Hz}$, H3',5'), 7.27 (1H, s, H-5), 6.56 (1H, bs, NH), 4.04 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.97 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.52 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 159.7 (C=O), 152.6 (OC=ONH), 141.7 (C4), 137.8 (C1'), 136.1 (C2), 127.8 (C4'), 125.9 (C2' and C6'), 121.8 (C5), 118.4 (C3' and C5'), 76.7 ([CH₃]₃), 52.4 (OCH₃) 36.0 (CH₃), 28.3 ((CH₃)₃); MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 332.1 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

10 (b) 4-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid (37)

To a suspension of 4-(4-tert-Butoxycarbonylamino-phenyl)-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester 36 (50 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.) in methanol (0.2 mL), in a Emrys™ Process vial (0.2 - 0.5 mL) with magnetic bar, was added 0.5 mL of an aqueous solution of KOH (8.5 mg, 0.15 mmol, 1.0 Equiv.). The vial was sealed with Reseal™ septa, and then the suspension was kept at 100°C for 7 minutes under microwave radiation¹ when the TLC showed no presence of starting material. Afterwards, the solvents were removed under vacuum and water (1.0 mL) was added to the reaction which acidified to pH 7 with HCl 50%. The resulting solid was subject of flash chromatography (EtOAc/MeOH 9:1) to give a white solid 37 (38 mg, 90%). IR (disc, cm⁻¹) 3385 (br OH), 2978, 1712 (C=O), 1599 (C=O), 1525, 1455, 1345, 1315, 1238, 1157, 1050, 1024, 963, 824, 808, 766, 642; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 9.37 (1H, bs, NH), 8.41 (1H, s, COOH), 7.61 (2H, d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, H2',6'), 7.48 (1H, s, H-5), 7.41 (2H, d, $J = 8.4\text{Hz}$, H3',5'), 3.94 (3H, s, NCH₃), 1.47 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 162.2 (C=O), 152.7 (OC=ONH), 144.9 (C2), 138.0 (C1'), 137.8 (C4), 127.5 (C4'), 125.3 (C2' and C6'), 121.0 (C5), 117.8 (C3' and C5'), 78.9 (C(CH₃)₃), 35.2 (CH₃), 28.1 ([CH₃]₃); MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 318.07 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

¹ Emrys™ Optimizer microwave station (Personal Chemistry).

Example 14 - General method for the synthesis of amides of 5-(4-nitrophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid



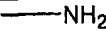
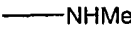
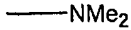
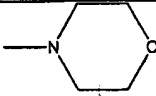
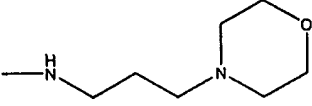
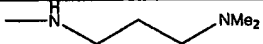
Oxalyl chloride (1.70 mL, 19.47 mmol, 1.3 Equiv) and DMF (catalytic) were added to a solution/suspension of 4-nitrophenylfuran-2-carboxylic acid in 200 mL of DCM. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 hours. DCM and oxalyl chloride excess were evaporated off in vacuum, the resulting yellow solid was split equally in seven two-necked round flask. The chloride was redissolved in THF (10 mL) and the respective amine solutions (see table below) in THF (10 mL) were added dropwise. TEA (1.0 Equiv.) was also added to the following entries: 3-dimethylaminopropyl amine, morpholine and 3-morpholino propylamine. The mixtures were allowed to stir at room temperature for 4 hours, and then the excess solvents were evaporated under vacuum. The crude materials (low impurity rates, see HPLCs) were redissolved in EtOH (10-20 mL) and they were transferred to appropriate flasks to undergo catalytic hydrogenation under H₂ in a Parr apparatus (10% Pd/C, 20psi average) for various times. The mixture was filtered over celite and the solvent removed at reduced pressure to afford the respective amides.

Amines used in the above procedure:

Amine	Stoichiometry
Ammonia	0.5 M in dioxane (25.7 mL, 12.84 mmols, 6.0 Equiv.)
Methylamine	2.0 M in THF (6.42 mL, 12.84 mmols, 6.0 Equiv.)
Diethylamine	2.0 M in THF (6.42 mL, 12.84 mmols, 6.0 Equiv.)
Morpholine	0.56 mL, 6.42 mmols, 3.0 Equiv.

1,4-diaminobutane	0.11 mL, 1.07 mmols, 0.5 Equiv.
3-dimethylaminopropylamine	0.35 mL, 2.78 mmols, 1.3 Equiv.
3-morpholinepropylamine	0.94 mL, 6.42 mmols, 3.0 Equiv.

Compounds prepared using this method:

Compound	Amide substituent
38	
39	
40	
41	
42	
43	

Characterising data for the compounds:

5

(a) 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid amide (38)

Purified by flash chromatography. Yield 86 mg, 20%. ¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 7.60 (2H, dt, *J* = 2.4, 8.6Hz, H2',6'), 7.20 - 7.40 (1H, bs, NH amide rotamer), 7.08 (1H, d, *J* = 3.5Hz, H-3), 6.73 (2H, dt, *J* = 2.4, 8.6Hz, H3',5'), 6.65 (1H, d, *J* = 3.5Hz, H-4), 6.40 - 6.60 (1H, bs, NH amide rotamer), 4.97 (2H, bs, NH₂); ¹³C NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 160.4 (C=ONH), 157.5 (C5), 150.2 (C2), 147.1 (C4'), 126.6 (C2' and C6'), 120.7 (C1'), 116.8 (C3), 115.0 (C3' and C5'), 104.5 (C4); MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 203.00 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

15

(b) 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid methanamide (39)

Purified by crystallization. Yield 273 mg, 59%. MS (EI) *m/z* (relative intensity) 217.02 ([M + H]⁺ 100%).

20

(c) 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid dimethanamide (40)

Purified by crystallization. Yield 252 mg, 51%. MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 231.04 ($[M + H]^+$ 100%).

(d) Morpholin-4-yl-[5-(4-aminophenyl)-furan-2-yl]-methanone (41)

5 Purified by crystallization. Yield 332 mg, 57%. MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 272.97 ($[M + H]^+$ 100%).

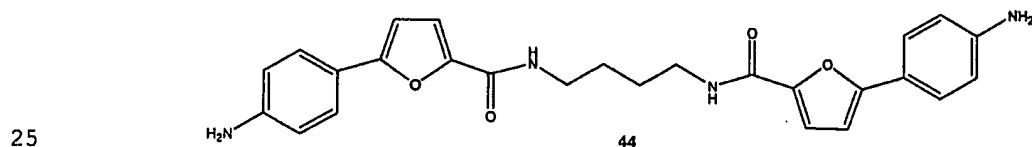
(e) 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid (4-morpholin-4-yl-propyl)-amide (42)

10 Purified by flash chromatography. Yield 532 mg, 75%. 1H NMR (d_6 -Acetone) δ 7.84 (1H, bs, NH), 7.57 (2H, dt, $J = 2.5$, 8.7Hz, H2', 6'), 7.04 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, H-3), 6.73 (2H, dt, $J = 2.5$, 8.7Hz, H3', 5'), 6.65 (1H, d, $J = 3.5$ Hz, H-4), 5.02 (2H, bs, NH₂), 3.63 (4H, t, $J = 4.6$ Hz, O(CH₂)₂), 3.45 (2H, q, $J = 5.9$ Hz, CH₂CH₂NHCO), 2.40 - 2.45 (6H, m, morpholine-CH₂CH₂ and (CH₂)₂N), 1.78 (2H, quintuplet, $J = 6.8$ Hz, CH₂CH₂CH₂); MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 329.98 ($[M + H]^+$ 100%).

(f) 5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxylic acid (3-dimethylamino-propyl)amide (43)

20 Purified by flash chromatography. Yield 446 mg (91% purity), 71%. MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 288.04 ($[M + H]^+$ 100%).

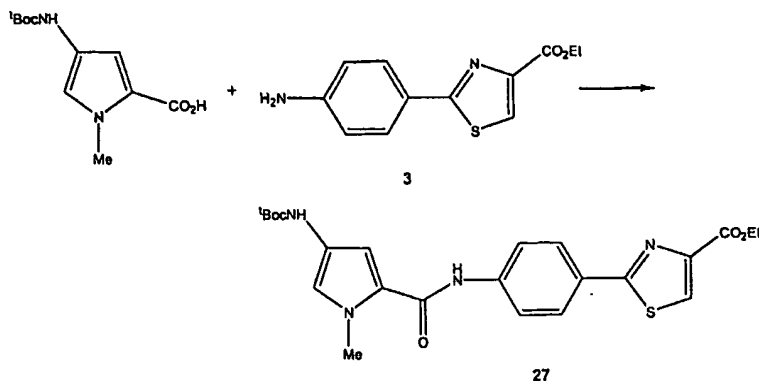
(g) Butyl-N,N-1,4-bis[5-(4-Aminophenyl)-furan-2-carboxamide] (44)



Purified by recrystallization. Yield 329 mg of 44, 33.5%. MS (EI) m/z (relative intensity) 459.05 ($[M + H]^+$ 100%).

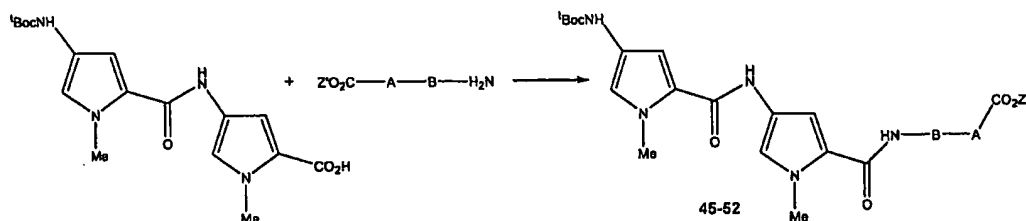
30 **Example 15 - Ethyl 2-[4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl]-thiazole-4-carboxylate (27)**

68



A solution/suspension of the biaryl amino ester (0.103g, 0.42mmol) and the Boc pyrrole acid (0.100g, 0.42mmol, 1 equiv.) in dry dichloromethane (5mL) was treated with EDCI (0.159g, 0.83mmol, 2 equiv.) then DMAP (0.127g, 1.04mmol, 2.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 72 hours. During this time a precipitate formed which was collected on a filter and washed with dichloromethane (3 x 2mL) then dried under vacuum. This gave the product as a white solid, 0.105g, (53%). LCMS $R_T = 3.78$ min, $(M^+ + 1) = 471$.

Example 16 - General method for the synthesis of Boc protected biaryl-pyrrole-pyrrole conjugates



A solution of the biaryl amino ester (0.41mmol) in dry dichloromethane (5mL) was treated with the dipyrrole acid (0.150g, 0.41mmol, 1.0 equiv.), then EDCI (0.159g, 8.2mmol, 2.0 equiv.) and DMAP (0.126g, 1.0 mmol, 2.5 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred over night then the solvent was removed under vacuum. The residue was dissolved/suspended in ethyl acetate (20mL) and washed with either water (imidazole, pyridine containing biaryls) or 1M HCl (others) (3 x 15mL), then saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 15mL). The organic layer was dried over $MgSO_4$ and

the solvent removed under vacuum. The resulting foam was then dried under vacuum.

Compounds prepared using the above method:

Compound	-Biaryl-CO-Z'
45	
46	
47	
48	
17	
49	
50	
51	
52	

Characterising data for the compounds prepared using this method:

- 5 (a) Ethyl 2-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-thiazole-4-carboxylate (45)

The yield was 0.193g (80%) of yellow foam. ¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 9.43 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 8.35 (1H, s, thiazole-H), 8.09 (1H, bs, NH), 7.99 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.93 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.78 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 4.38 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, CH₂), 1.47 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃), 1.38 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH₃); LCMS R_T = 3.72 min, (M⁺+1) = 593.

- 15 (b) Ethyl 2-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylate (46)

The yield was 0.204g (90%) of yellow foam. ¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 9.45 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 8.09 (1H, bs, NH), 7.98 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.93 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.79 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 4.34 (2H, t, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.71 (3H, s, thiazole-CH₃), 1.46 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃), 1.36 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH₃); LCMS R_T = 4.00 min, (M⁺+1) = 607.

25

- (c) Methyl 5-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-furan-2-carboxylate (47)

The yield was 0.118g, (54%). ¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 9.35 (1H, s, NH), 9.23 (1H, s, NH), 8.09 (s, 1H, bs, NH), 7.94 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H), 7.79 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-3), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.13 (1H, d, J = 1.5Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.95 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-4), 6.93 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.78 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 3.95 (s, 3H, s,

30

NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.46 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃);
LCMS R_T = 3.72 min, (M⁺+1) = 562.

(d) Methyl 5-[3-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-
5 pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-
phenyl]-furan-2-carboxylate (48)

The yield was 0.200g (91%) of yellow foam. LCMS R_T = 3.72 min,
(M⁺+1) = 562.

10 (e) Methyl 4'-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-
pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-
biphenyl-3-carboxylate (17)

The yield was 0.156g (66%) of yellow foam. ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ
9.31 (1H, bs, NH), 9.23 (1H, bs, NH), 8.27 (1H, t, J = 1.7Hz,
15 biphenyl-H-2), 8.09 (1H, bs, NH), 7.98 (1H, d, J = 1.2Hz,
biphenyl-H-4/6), 7.95 (1H, d, J = 8.7Hz, biphenyl-H-2'/6'), 7.92
(1H, d, J = 1.9Hz, biphenyl-H-4/6), 7.68 (1H, d, J = 8.7Hz,
biphenyl-H-3'/5'), 7.59 (1H, t, J = 7.7Hz, biphenyl-H-5), 7.29
(1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.12 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H),
20 6.93 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.79 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 3.96 (3H, s,
NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.47 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃);
LCMS R_T = 3.88 min, (M⁺+1) = 572.

(f) Methyl 3-[5-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-
25 pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-
pyridin-2-yl]-benzoate (49)

The yield was 0.232g (98%) of yellow foam. ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ
9.51 (1H, bs, NH), 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.04 (1H, d, J = 2.0Hz,
pyridinyl-H-6), 8.78 (1H, t, J = 1.7Hz, phenyl-H-2), 8.44 (1H, m,
30 phenyl-H-4/6), 8.36 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 8.12 (1H, bs, NH), 8.04
(1H, m, pyridinyl-H-4), 7.99 (1H, d, J = 8.6Hz, pyridinyl-H-3),
7.62 (1H, t, J = 7.8Hz, phenyl-H-5), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz,
pyrrole-H), 7.19 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.94 (1H, s,
pyrrole-H), 6.79 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 3.97 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.94 (3H,
35 s, NCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.47 (9H, s, [CH₃]₃); LCMS R_T = 3.60
min, (M⁺+1) = 573.

(g) Methyl 4-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (50)

5 LCMS R_T = 3.73 min, (M^+ +1) = 575. Used directly in the next step without further purification.

(h) Ethyl 5-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-thiophene-2-carboxylate (51)

10 The product was purified by column chromatography. The yield was 0.102g (42%).

^1H NMR (d_6 - Acetone) δ 9.37 (1H, bs, NH), 9.25 (1H, bs, NH), 8.11 (1H, bs, NH), 7.92 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H-2,6), 7.76 (1H, d, J = 3.9Hz, thiophene-H-3), 7.71 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H-3,5), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 3.9Hz, thiophene-H-4), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.12 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.93 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.79 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 4.34 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, OCH_2), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH_3), 1.46 (9H, s, $[\text{CH}_3]_3$), 1.36 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH_2CH_3); LCMS R_T = 3.98 min, (M^+ +1) = 592.

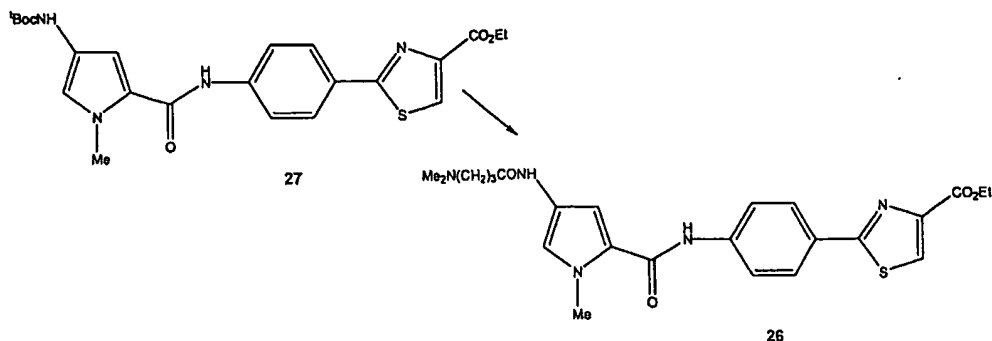
(i) Methyl 4-[4-((4-[(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino)-phenyl]-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylate (52)

25 The reaction was performed on a 1.5mmol scale. The yield was 0.069g, (81%) of yellow foam. ^1H NMR (d_6 - Acetone) δ 9.28 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 8.15 (1H, bs, NH), 7.82 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.73 (1H, s, imidazole-H), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.08 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.94 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 6.78 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 4.05 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.95 (3H, NCH_3), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH_3), 1.46 (9H, s, $[\text{CH}_3]_3$); LCMS R_T = 3.22 min, (M^+ +1) = 576.

Example 17 - Synthesis of Ethyl 2-(4-([4-(4-

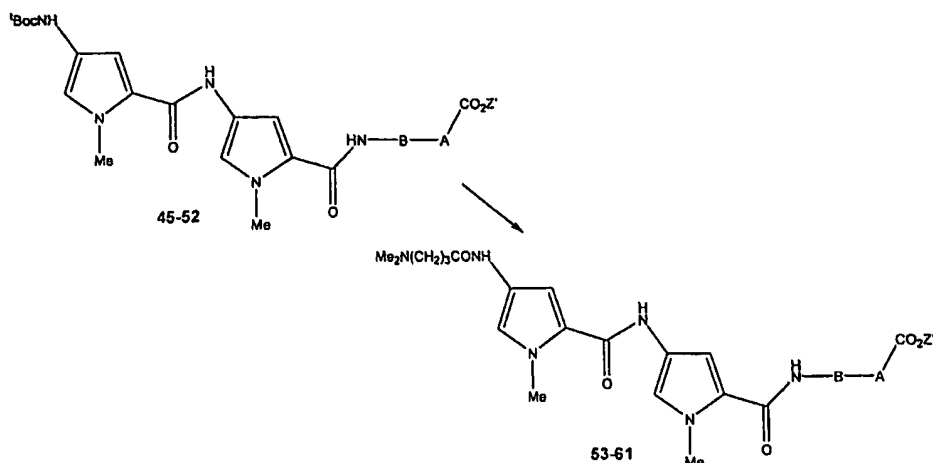
35 dimethylaminobutylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino)-phenyl)-thiazole-4-carboxylate (26)

73



The Boc protected amine (0.05g, 0.11mmol), was dissolved in dry THF (1mL) and 4M HCl in dioxane (2mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours then the solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue dried under vacuum. The resulting solid was dissolved in dry DMF (2mL) and 4-[N,N-dimethylamino]butyric acid (0.036g, 0.22mmol, 2 equiv.) was added followed by EDCI (0.041g, 0.21mmol, 2 equiv.) and DMAP (0.026g, 0.21mmol, 2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight then the DMF was removed under a stream of nitrogen. The residue was dissolved in water and basified with 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (~3 drops). The aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 10mL) and the combined organic layers were dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum. The residue was suspended in ether (10mL) and dispensed into 1.5mL Eppendorf tubes (x 10) and centrifuged for 90 seconds. The ether was removed and the solid resuspended in ether (10 x 1mL) and the tubes centrifuged for a further 90 seconds. The ether was again removed and the solid dried under a stream of nitrogen, then under vacuum. This gave an off white solid, 0.030g (58%). ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ 9.41 (1H, bs, NH), 9.33 (1H, bs, NH), 8.35 (1H, s, thiazole-H), 7.97 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.25 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.99 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 4.37 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂), 3.94 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.33 (4H, 2 x t, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.21 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.81 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3), 1.38 (3H, t, J = 7.2Hz, CH₂CH₃); LCMS R_T = 0.58 min, (M⁺+1) = 484.

Example 18 - General method for the synthesis of biaryl-pyrrole-pyrrole-charged tail conjugates



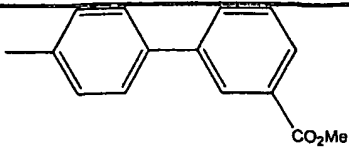
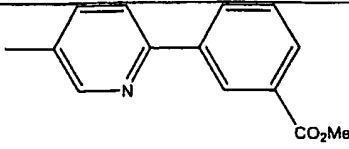
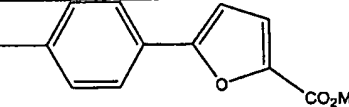
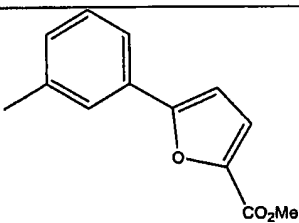
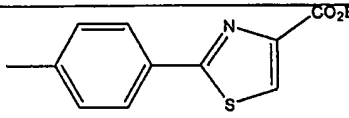
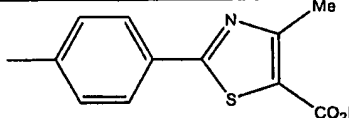
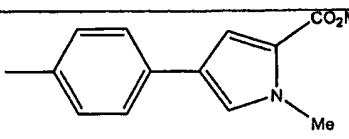
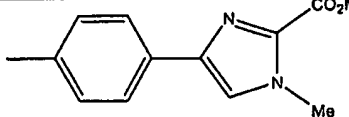
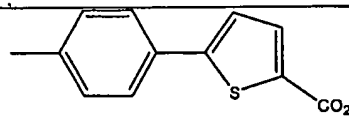
The Boc protected amine (0.050g) in a dry round bottomed flask dissolved in dry THF (0.5mL) and then treated with 4M HCl in dioxane (2mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 hour during which time a precipitate formed. The solvent was removed under vacuum and the residue dried under vacuum. The resulting solid was then dissolved in dry DMF (1mL) and 4-[N,N-

5 dimethylamino]butyric acid (2 equiv.) added followed by EDCI (2 equiv.) and DMAP (2.5 equiv.). The resulting solution was stirred under a nitrogen atmosphere overnight then the DMF was removed under a stream of nitrogen and the residue dried under vacuum. The residue was dissolved in water (10mL) and made slightly

10 alkaline by the addition of 15% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3-5 drops). The aqueous phase was extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 10mL). The organic layers combined, dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated under vacuum. The residue was suspended in ether (10mL) and dispensed into 1.5mL Eppendorf tubes (x 10) and

15 centrifuged for 5 minutes. The ether was removed and the solid resuspended in ether (10 x 1mL) and centrifuged for 5 minutes. The ether was again removed and the solid dried under a stream of nitrogen gas then under vacuum to give the product.

25 The following compounds were prepared using the above method:

Compound	-B-A-CO-Z'
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Characterising data for the compounds prepared using this method:

(a) Methyl 4'-[(4-[(4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino]biphenyl-3-carboxylate (53)

The yield of white solid was 0.051g (99%). ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ 9.36 (1H, bs, NH), 9.29 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 8.27 (1H, t, J = 1.6Hz, biphenyl-H-2), 8.00-7.90 (2H, m, biphenyl-H-4/6), 7.96 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, biphenyl-H-2'/6'), 7.68 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, biphenyl-H-3'/5'), 7.60 (1H, t, J = 7.8Hz, biphenyl-H-5), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.18 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.11 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.31 (4H, 2xt, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2/4), 2.19 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.78 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3); LCMS R_T = 2.50 min, (M⁺+1) = 585.

(b) Methyl 3-(5-[(4-[(4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino]-pyridine-2-yl)-benzoate (54)

The yield was 0.039g (77%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ 9.56 (1H, bs, NH), 9.30 (1H, bs, NH), 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.04 (1H, d, J = 2.3Hz, pyridinyl-H-6), 8.78 (1H, t, J = 1.6Hz, phenyl-H-2), 8.44 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 8.35 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 8.03 (1H, m, pyridinyl-H-4), 7.99 (1H, d, J = 8.7Hz, pyridinyl-H-3), 7.62 (1H, t, J = 7.8Hz, phenyl-H-5), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.18 (2H, m, pyrrole-H), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 3.97 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.31 (4H, 2xt, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2/4), 2.19 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.77 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3); LCMS R_T = 2.13 min, (M⁺+1) = 586.

(c) Methyl 5-(4-[(4-[(4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino]-phenyl)-furan-2-carboxylate (55)

The yield was 0.032g (61%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆- Acetone) δ 9.41 (1H, bs, NH), 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.23 (1H, bs,

NH), 7.94 (2H, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H-2,6), 7.80 (2H, d, J = 8.8Hz, phenyl-H-3,5), 7.31 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-3), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.11 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.97 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-4), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.30 (4H, 2xt, J = 7.1Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.18 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.79 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3); LCMS R_T = 2.27 min, (M⁺+1) = 575.

10 (d) Methyl 5-{3-[(4-{[4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl}-furan-2-carboxylate (56)

¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 9.43 (1H, bs, NH), 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.23 (1H, bs, NH), 8.25 (t, 1H, J=1.7Hz, phenyl-H-2), 7.91 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.53 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.43 (t, 1H, J=7.9Hz, phenyl-H-5), 7.33 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-4), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.01 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-3), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.28 (4H, 2 x t, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.78 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3); LCMS R_T = 2.26 min, (M⁺+1) = 575.

25 (e) Ethyl 2-{4-[(4-{[4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl}-thiazole-4-carboxylate (57)

The yield was 0.035g (68%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆-Acetone) δ 9.48 (1H, bs, NH), 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 8.36 (1H, s, thiazole-H), 7.99 (4H, s, phenyl-H), 7.30 (d, 1H, J=1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 4.37 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.30 (4H, 2 x t, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.77 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3), 1.38 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, CH₂CH₃); LCMS R_T = 2.27 min, (M⁺+1) = 606.

(f) Ethyl 2-{4-[(4-{[4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl}-4-methyl-thiazole-5-carboxylate (58)

The yield was 0.029g (57%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆-

5 Acetone) δ 9.50 (1H, bs, NH), 9.25 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 7.98 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.14 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.82 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 4.34 (2H, q, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂), 3.96 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH₃), 2.71 (3H, s, thiazole-CH₃), 2.30 (4H, 2xt, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17
10 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.78 (2H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3), 1.36 (3H, t, J = 7.1Hz, OCH₂CH₃); LCMS R_T = 2.47 min, (M⁺+1) = 620.

(g) Methyl 4-{4-[(4-{[4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carboxylate (59)

The yield was 0.050g (97%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆-

15 Acetone) δ 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.21 (1H, bs, NH), 9.19 (1H, bs, NH), 7.79 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H-2,6), 7.53 (2H, d, J = 8.7Hz, phenyl-H-3,5), 7.41 (1H, d, J = 2.0Hz, phenylpyrrole-H), 7.27 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.19 (d, 1H, J=2.0Hz, phenylpyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.7Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.05 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 6.81 (1H, d, J = 1.8Hz, pyrrole-H), 3.96
20 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.92 (3H, s, NCH₃), 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 2.30 (4H, 2xt, J = 7.1Hz, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17 (6H, s, N[CH₃]₂), 1.77 (3H, p, J = 7.0Hz, sidechain-H-3); LCMS R_T = 2.27
25 min, (M⁺+1) = 608.

(h) Methyl 4-{4-[(4-{[4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino}-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl)-amino]-phenyl}-1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-carboxylate (60)

The yield was 0.034g (66%) of off white solid. ¹H NMR (d₆-

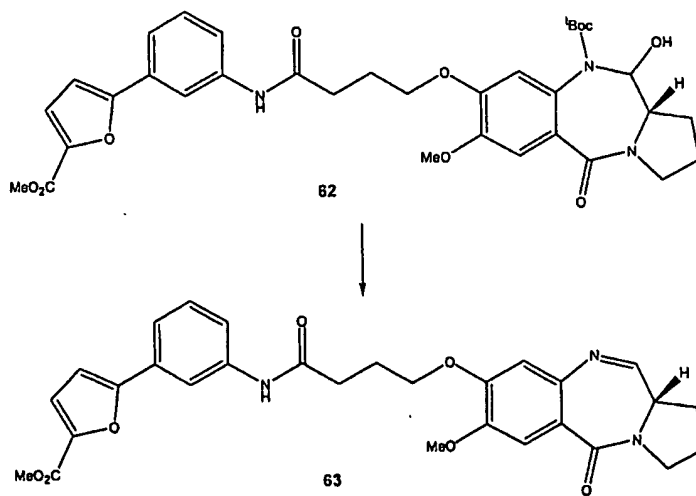
30 Acetone) δ 9.26 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 9.22 (1H, bs, NH), 7.82 (4H, m, phenyl-H), 7.73 (1H, s, imidazole-H), 7.28 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, J = 1.6Hz, pyrrole-H), 7.07
35

(1H, d, $J = 1.7\text{Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 6.81 (1H, d, $J = 1.6\text{Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 4.05 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.88 (3H, s, OCH_3), 2.29 (4H, 2xt, $J = 7.0\text{Hz}$, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17 (6H, s, $\text{N}[\text{CH}_3]_2$), 1.78 (2H, p, $J = 7.0\text{Hz}$, sidechain-H-3); LCMS $R_T = 1.92\text{ min}$, $(M^+ + 1) = 587$.

(i) Ethyl 5-(4-[(4-[(4-(4-Dimethylamino-butyrylamino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino)-1-methyl-1H-pyrrole-2-carbonyl]-amino]-phenyl)-thiophene-2-carboxylate (61)

The reaction was performed on 0.070g of Boc-protected amine. The yield was 0.060g (84%) of off white solid. ^1H NMR (d_6 -Acetone) δ 9.41 (1H, bs, NH), 9.27 (1H, bs, NH), 9.24 (1H, bs, NH), 7.92 (2H, d, $J = 8.7\text{Hz}$, phenyl-H-2,6), 7.76 (1H, d, $J = 3.9\text{Hz}$, thiophene-H-3), 7.72 (2H, d, $J = 8.7\text{Hz}$, phenyl-H-3,5), 7.47 (1H, d, $J = 3.9\text{Hz}$, thiophene-H-4), 7.28 (1H, d, $J = 1.1\text{Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 7.17 (1H, d, $J = 1.2\text{Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 7.11 (1H, d, $J = 1.2\text{Hz}$, pyrrole-H), 6.82 (1H, s, pyrrole-H), 4.33 (2H, q, $J = 7.1\text{Hz}$, OCH_2), 3.95 (3H, s, NCH_3), 3.93 (3H, s, NCH_3), 2.30 (4H, 2xt, $J = 7.0\text{Hz}$, sidechain-H-2,4), 2.17 (6H, s, $\text{N}[\text{CH}_3]_2$), 1.77 (2H, p, $J = 7.0\text{Hz}$, sidechain-H-3), 1.36 (3H, t, $J = 7.1\text{Hz}$, OCH_2CH_3); LCMS $R_T = 2.48\text{ min}$, $(M^+ + 1) = 605$.

Example 19 - PBD Coupled Biaryls



(a) *tert*-Butyl 11-hydroxy-7-methoxy-8-(3-[3-(5-methoxycarbonyl-furan-2-yl)-phenylcarbamoyl]-propoxy)-5-oxo-2,3,11,11a-tetrahydro-1H,5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-10-carboxylate (62)

A solution of methyl 5-(3-nitrophenyl)-furan-5-carboxylate
 5 (0.220g, 0.9mmol) in ethyl acetate (50mL) was treated with a suspension of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.05g, 20% equiv.) The suspension was agitated under a hydrogen atmosphere (20psi) for 4 hours. The suspension was then filtered through celite and the solvent removed under vacuum. The resulting solid was dissolved
 10 in dry DMF (5mL) and the Boc protected PBD acid (0.402g, 0.9mmol, 1.0 equiv.) was added followed by EDCI (0.256g, 1.3mmol, 1.5 equiv.) and DMAP (0.131g, 1.1mmol, 1.2 equiv.). The reaction mixture was stirred for 48 hours then diluted with ethyl acetate (50mL) and washed with 10% citric acid (3 x 50mL) then saturated
 15 sodium hydrogen carbonate solution (3 x 50mL). The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give an off white foam, 0.387g (67%). An analytical sample (~0.2g) was purified by column chromatography (silica gel, eluted with EtOAc) to give 0.145g of 62 as a glassy solid. ¹H NMR (d₆-
 20 DMSO) δ 10.17 (1H, bs, NH), 8.05 (1H, m, phenyl-H-2), 7.67 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.50 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.40 (2H, m, furan-H-3, H-6), 7.11 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-4), 7.05 (1H, s, phenyl-H-5), 6.70 (1H, s, H-9), 6.38 (1H, bs, OH), 5.41 (1H, m, H-11), 4.07 (2H, m, sidechain-H-1), 3.84 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃),
 25 3.46 (1H, m, H-11a), 3.36 (1H, m, H-3), 3.24 (1H, m, H-3), 2.67 (2H, m, sidechain-H-3), 2.55 (2H, m, sidechain-H-3), 2.33 (s, 1H), 2.10 (2H, m, H-1), 1.99 (2H, m, H-2), 1.27 (9H, s, O[CH₃]₃); MS (M⁺+1) = 650.

30 (b) Methyl 5-(3-[4-(7-methoxy-5-oxo-1,2,3,11a-tetrahydro-5H-pyrrolo[2,1-c][1,4]benzodiazepine-8-yloxy)-butyrylamino]-phenyl)-furan-2-carboxylate (63)

A solution of the Boc-protected PBD (0.075g, 0.12mmol) in dichloromethane (1.5mL) was treated with trifluoroacetic acid and
 35 water (1.463mL:0.037mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 1

hour at room temperature then poured into a mixture of ice/water (~40mL) and dichloromethane (10mL). The acid was neutralized by the careful addition of saturated sodium hydrogen carbonate (~25mL). The organic layer was separated and the aqueous layer
5 washed with dichloromethane (3 x 15mL). The combined organic extracts were dried over magnesium sulphate then concentrated under vacuum to give 63 a pale yellow glassy solid, 0.059g (96%).
¹H NMR (d₆-DMSO) δ 10.16 (1H, bs, NH), 8.05 (1H, m, phenyl-H-2), 7.77 (1H, d, J = 4.4Hz, H-11), 7.68 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.50
10 (1H, m, phenyl-H-4/6), 7.41 (2H, m, furan-H-3, H-6), 7.33 (1H, m, phenyl-H-5), 7.11 (1H, d, J = 3.6Hz, furan-H-4), 6.85 (1H, s, H-9), 4.14 (2H, m, sidechain-H-1), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.81 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.74 (1H, m, H-11a), 3.64 (1H, m, H-3), 3.40 (1H, m, H-3), 2.53 (2H, m, sidechain-H-3), 2.27 (2H, m, H-1), 2.08 (2H, m,
15 sidechain-H-2), 1.94 (2H, m, H-2).

LC-MS Analysis

LC-MS analyses were performed using a Luna 3μ C8(2) column with a flow rate of 1.5mL/min and a linear gradient solvent system going
20 from 95:5 solvent A:B at time 0 to 5:95 A:B at 4 minutes after sample injection then maintained at 5:95 until 7 minutes. Solvent A is 0.1% formic acid in water, solvent B is 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile. The electrospray mass spectrometer was operated in switching mode to obtain both positive and negative ion spectra.

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Example 20 - DNA Footprinting

In order to assess the binding of test compounds to DNA, a footprinting study against the MS2 DNA sequence was carried out. The sequence is as follows:

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5' - CAGGAGGCAG CTATGACCAT GATTACGAAT TCGAGCTCGG TACCCGGGGA
TCCATATGCG GCAATACACA TGGCCGATTT CCAACGTCAC TAGTCGTAGC
35 GCGATCAAGG TTAAGCTCCC GTTCTATCCT GGTATAGCAA TTAGGGCGTG
AAGAGTTATG TAAAGTACGT CCGGTGGGGT CTGTTTTGTC ATCTCAGCCT
CGAATGCGGA TCCTCTAGAG TCGACCTGCA GGCATGCAAG CTTGGCACTG

GCCGTCGTTT TA -3'

and is derived from a bacteriophage.

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The footprinting technique in the context of DNA allows the determination of binding sites for drugs or biological macromolecules. It relies on the fact that DNA is cleaved relatively non-specifically by free radicals (e.g. hydroxyl radical footprinting) or enzymes (e.g. DNase I footprinting). Thus if DNA is ³²P end labelled on one strand (so that it may be observed autoradiographically) and exposed to the cleavage agent for a certain time, then a laddering pattern may be seen when the resulting fragments are separated by gel electrophoresis (separation on the basis of size). If a compound which binds to DNA is added prior to the cleavage agent then this hinders access of the enzyme or radical to the DNA and blocks cleavage at the molecule binding site. Thus if the compound binds discretely then a specific cleavage block should be seen on the gel relative to the DNA not treated with compound, which is termed the 'footprint'. (see Figure 1)

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Compound 9 produces an unusual profile in which there appears to be no specific footprinting activity, but conversely there is no clear coating event. There may be a structural aspect to the cleavage pattern seen.

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